THE

AMERICAN FARMER

"O FORTUNATOS NIMIUM SUA SI BONA NORINT
"AGRICOLAS." . . . . . *Virg.*

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OUR NEW VOLUME.

With this No. the *American Farmer* enters upon another year, the eleventh of our new series, and encouraged by the congratulations of friends, its large and widely extended circulation, and increasing prosperity, its editors enter afresh upon their duties, with renewed anticipations of usefulness, and resolutions to deserve the commendations and confidence of its friends.

It is our aim, as it has ever been, to make our Journal the medium through which the great mass of the farming community may be furnished with the best information to be had on the various subjects connected with their pursuit. Our work is intended for practical men, and we shall aim to conduct it with reference to their tastes and wants, looking always however, to higher views of improvement, and a better practice. With an earnest interest in our business, a sincere wish to serve our readers, and all necessary facilities for the work, with the aid of many able correspondents, it were a poor compliment to our intelligence to suppose that we could fail to interest and instruct our most cultivated readers, while we supply all the necessary demands of the less pretending.

In all questions of practice, education and science, we design to hold a middle ground, equally removed from the *fogy-ism* which rejects all improvement, and the mad spirit of progress, which runs improvement into folly and absurdity. We reject the practice which would fasten the plough to the tail of the horse, because such a practice was approved by the "ancient venerable dead;" but we do not endorse the advice of some progressives, who would have us plough the soil to the depth of three feet. We repudiate the teachings of a distinguished agricultural writer, that the practical man is not benefitted by education. We hold distinctly and unequivocally, that other things being equal, a man's capacity for any duty which requires the exercise of intelligence, is in exact proportion to the development of his mental faculties. We deny that the duties of a practical farmer do not require the use of his mind. At the same time we do not hold that a college education is a necessity for the farmer, nor that he should be, what is called, a scientific man. We admit the modest claims of a true science, as the Hand-maid of Agriculture, holding out her lights to cheer and guide the labours of the working man. But these are lights, (shining yet dimly through mists and clouds of ignorance,) not to be gazed at and admired and followed, but only enabling us the better to use our eyes. We reject the pretensions of those who claim to be full fledged Doctors of Science, ready for a consideration to put up a scientific prescription for every evil under which the farmer labours, and of those who claiming to be teachers, press upon us their so called scientific theories in tones of authority which admit of no question. We claim it as the privilege and the duty of the intelligent practical man, that he take his stand by the side of the man of science, and receiving nothing on mere authority, that he challenge and question every theory, and admit nothing for the teaching of science, until it shall stand the test and scrutiny of a skilful practice. In this way alone will an agricultural science be built up. We present the result of our own labours not as instructions to be implicitly followed, but as the best aids we can offer to him who would inform and improve his own judgment. We would have no one of our readers make the great, and not uncommon mistake of supposing, that agricultural Journals, or Books, or teachings of any sort, are intended as substitutes for a sound practical judgment. A man may labour under "loads of learned lumber" which is useless to himself or others, the wise man is he who *gets* learning *and uses it*. He will hear by all means what others have to say, but he will *do his own thinking*. He will not swallow down every thing

which comes to hand, but appropriate it with such discrimination and in such measure as his own necessities require.

But we have aim and views beyond what belongs to the office of Instruction. It will be our duty and pleasure to guard and watch the interests of agriculture in all their various phases, and as faithful sentinels to bring to the notice of the Farmer all things which concern his general interests. And as more important still, by all means and on all proper occasions, in season and out of season, to stir up and awaken from their lethargy the large mass of Farmers, who disregarding and neglecting the important duties entrusted to them as conservators of the great interests of the Country, permit these interests to be subordinated and over-ridden, by the earnest zeal which presses the claims of the few.

WORK FOR THE MONTH.

JULY.

As this month is one in which the agricultor is called upon for action—one in which all his judgment, all his energy, all his industry, will be called into requisition, and the wheat harvest in several of the States where it is grown, will have to be attended to, we shall not indulge in many prefatory remarks; but will say in all sincerity, that notwithstanding all the sanguine letters which we have read, of the bright prospects of the wheat crop, our opinion is, that the product, when it comes to be garnered, will prove to be much less than an average crop, in the aggregate. That there will have been some good crops we do not doubt, but in a great majority of cases, we are equally certain, that the product will be comparatively small. As far as our personal observation goes, we are free to declare, that we have rarely seen as many fields bearing the evidences of winter-killing. Therefore, as the plants were not upon the fields, their products must be correspondingly decreased, and hence our belief is, that there will be less than an average crop of wheat raised the present season, and we say this without taking into our calculation the divers diseases that may yet attack the now standing crops of wheat, by which its product will be still farther lessened. Taking these facts and circumstances into account, and the almost certainty, that the war between the Allies and Russia will continue, we have come to the conclusion, that prices, as relates to all the grain crops, will continue good throughout the year, and so believing, we feel it to be our duty to admonish our farmer-friends, not to permit speculators to over-reach them in the sale of their grain —not to permit profits which should go into their pockets, to pass into those of men, whose trade it is to live by the farmer's labors, and whose business it is, in their thirst for mammon, to depress the value of agricultural products, by means the most unscrupulous and disreputable—by manufacturing paragraphs, and extracts of letters, or by paying for their manufacture, misrepresenting the real state of the crops.

HARVESTING.

As we were full last month upon all that appertains to all that concerns harvesting of grain, we refer to our remarks then made, simply observing that none should permit their grain to become dead ripe before having it cut. All grass intended for hay, should be cut just when the plants come fully into flower, and before the seed ripens.

MILLET.

The seed of this grass may be sown up to the 10th of this month. The ground at this late period should be heavily manured, *deeply* ploughed, and thoroughly pulverized, by harrowing; before sowing the seed, the ground should be rolled; the seed should be lightly harrowed in, and the ground rolled afterwards. Previous to harrowing in the seed, if 5 bushels or 10 bushels of ashes per acre, were broadcasted over the field, the product would be greatly increased.

Of the Soil.—Theory says that a *light* sandy loam, *light* alluvial soils, or deep, rich sands, are the sorts in which millet most delights; but the heaviest crop we ever grew was on a tenacious clay soil. Our own impression is, that it will grow, and grow well, on any soil that is generously manured, deeply ploughed, and thoroughly pulverized, and that without observance of these pre-requisites, it is futile to expect heavy crops. With these observances, we know of no member of the grass family from which so large a crop of grass may be expected; but to expect such a crop, manure must be measured out with a heavy hand, and the ground be put in first rate condition as to depth by ploughing and fineness of tilth.

Seed per Acre.—When grown for the purpose of making hay, 1 bushel of seed per acre. When grown for the grain, 3 pecks is enough.

Of the Manure.—To ensure a first rate crop, each acre should be treated to 400 lbs. of guano, to be mixed with 1 bushel of plaster, and ploughed in, or 30 loads of barn-yard and stable manure that has been well kept; if the latter has not been so kept, 100 lbs. of guano should be broadcasted over the other manure together with 1 bushel of plaster, which should be ploughed in as speedily thereafter as possible. Millet being of rapid growth, being ready for cutting in 6 or 7 weeks from the time of sowing, it is reasonable to conclude, that it should be well fed. If it be fed as advised, an acre will produce from 3 to 4 tons of good hay—of hay equally as acceptable to horses as to other stock.

Time of cutting.—When about one-third of the seed begins to turn yellow at the top of the head is the time to cut.

Its uses.—Besides making excellent, well relished hay, the seed is among the best feed that can be given to chickens, especially the *young* ones, and if millet seed, instead of corn-meal-dough were given to chickens when young, our belief is that there would be much fewer deaths—when chopt and mixed with moistened chopt straw, hay or fodder, it is an excellent food for horses, working oxen, or milch cows.

BROADCAST CORN.

In view of another year of a scarcity of stock-feed, we would advise all who may have any apprehensions upon the subject, to put in a few acres of broadcast corn, to be cut and cured when the corn is in tassels. Let the ground be prepared as recommended for millet; then sow 3 bushels of corn per acre, harrow and cross-harrow it in, spread 10 bushels of ashes per acre, and then roll the ground. Let the corn be sown within the first 10 days of the month.

Buckwheat.

A resource for long provender for cattle, may be found in Buckwheat if sown any time before the 10th of the month. Manure liberally, plough deep, pulverize finely: sow a bushel of buckwheat per acre, harrow it in and roll. *Time of cutting.* When it *first comes into bloom* cut and cure as you would clover: let it lay half a day in the swath, then throw it into cocks, and finish the curing. *Buckwheat* may be sown for grain up to the 10th of this month.

Cultivation of Corn.

Let your cultivators be busy in your corn field from now until you lay by your crop, not forgetting to use the hoe around the hills for the better eradication of the grass and weeds about the plants. Let be it your pride to say that when your corn was laid by, there were neither grass nor weeds to offend the eye, or interfere with the yield of the crop. Let not prejudices of those who are opposed to the practice, prevent you from working your corn in times of drought; believe us that the corn plants need working most in *dry weather*—it is then that it requires the ground to be kept open, in order that it may be in a condition to attract and condense within its pores the refreshing dews, and nutritive elements of the atmosphere. Dew that falls on a hardened surface, is exhaled by the morning's sun, and passes off with but partial benefit to the crop, while the dew that falls on a freshly worked soil is absorbed, sinks into the earth and is taken up by the feeders of the plants.

Fall Potatoes.

Keep your crops of potatoes clear from weeds and grass, and if you have not done so already, treat each acre of them to a mixture comprised of 5 or 10 bushels of ashes, 1 bushel of plaster, and 1 bushel of salt. We do not recommend this as either a preventive against the rot, or as a curative of it, for we are unbelievers in all nostrums of the kind, but simply to supply the plant with the food essential to its healthful growth, and to the maturation of its tubers. That these substances are essential in this connection, will be seen by the following analysis:

Analysis of the ash of the Potato.

	Tubers	Tops.
Potash,	40.28	81.9
Soda,	23.34	00.9
Lime,	1.31	129.7
Magnesia,	2.24	17.0
Alumina,	0.50	00.4
Oxide of iron,	0.32	00.2
Silica,	0.84	49.4
Sulphuric acid,	5.40	04.2
Phosphoric acid,	4.01	19.7
Chlorine,	1.60	05.0

The above analysis shews the relative proportions of the several inorganic substances found by analysis of the ash of 10,000 lbs. of the roots, stalks and leaves, taken before drying, and they show how essential ashes are, as the producer of potash, phosphoric acid, magnenia, sulphuric acid, magnesia, &c. Salt, as the producer of soda and chlorine, and plaster as the producer of lime and sulphuric acid, and therefore, how necessary such applications are to the health of the potato. If the quantity of the mixture named, were divided into 3 parts, and $\frac{1}{3}$rd part applied at three different times, say at intervals of a week apart, it would be better than if the whole were applied at one time. The broadcasting of this mixture should be made over the vines in early morning, when the dew is on them.

Sheep.

To prevent your sheep from being hereafter afflicted with worms in the head, provide a trough in their pasture, to be kept under cover, thrice a week spread over the bottom of it as much tar as will cover it, over that spread salt pretty freely. In eating the salt, the sheep will smear their noses with tar, which will prevent the fly from laying its eggs in the nostrils of the sheep. These eggs when hatched, give birth to worms that crawl up into the heads of the sheep, and create the disease called *worms-in-the head.* Be particular to renew the tar and salt thrice a week, and you will secure your sheep against this formidable death producing disease, and as an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure, it is the interest as well as duty of every flock owner to lay himself out to see that his sheep is thus protected against harm. If their be no running water in the sheep pasture, the animals should be provided with it at least twice a day.

Fall Turnips.

Those who desire a full crop of turnips, as well as to provide against casualties, should get them in by the 25th of this month. By sowing thus early, should the plants be destroyed by the turnip flea, or turnip fly, there will be ample time left to re-sow, an advantage that every turnip grower should secure to himself. If intended for cattle feed, to eke out and economise the long provender of the farm, there is this advantage in early sowing, the roots grow larger, and produce a much greater quantity to the acre, and it may be opportune to the occasion, to say, that the Norfolk flat turnip grows larger than any other kind, and consequently yields more to the acre.

If the ground were manured, ploughed and harrowed, from 10 to 12 days before sowing the turnip seed, it would be so much the better for this reason. The turnip insect that eats the seed leaves, is produced from eggs that lie in the ground, and when turned up to the influence of the warmth of the sun and air, are hatched and fed on the seed leaves, and consequently kill the plants. If these insects come to life about the time the plants are ready for them to feed on, the destruction of the latter is inevitable. If, however, we plough the land a sufficient time in advance of the period of sowing the plants for the flies to hatch, they come into existence at a time when there is nothing for them to eat on the ground, and consequently die. At the expiration then of some 10 or 12 days after the ground has been manured, harrowed and plowed, the ground should be harrowed and rolled, when the seed should be lightly harrowed, in and the ground rolled.

For the manner of cultivating the turnip, we refer to our remarks of last month. But we will here add, that if the manure applied and ploughed in, be either barn-yard and stable manure, or guano, that it would be good policy, and a most excellent practice, to dissolve 4 bushels of bones in 100 lbs. of sulphuric acid, as we prescribed last month, and to mix the bones, when dissolved with 10 or 20 bushels of ashes and 2 bushels of salt, and 1 bushel of plaster, to broadcast this mixture over the ground, then sow the seed, and lightly harrow the whole in, and roll. The quanties above named are intended for an acre in turnips. If it be not convenient to get the bone earth, 150 lbs. of Mexican guano, or 150 lbs. of the phosphate of lime, will answer in its stead.

We have said that the Norfolk flat turnip is the

best, when the object is the feeding of cattle, because it yields most,—and we will here add, that we consider the red-top the best for family use.

PEACH TREES.

Examine your peach trees a few inches beneath the surface of the ground, and wherever you find a puncture, or the exudation of gum, thrust a knitting needle, or a piece of wire, or the point of a knife into the hole, work it about, and you will kill the worm; then fill up the holes with a mixture composed of two parts of soft soap, 1 part flour, sulphur, and 1 part salt, then paint the trunk of the tree from the point at which the earth had been dug out to the limbs, throw back the earth that had been dug out, and sow around the trunk of each tree a mixture composed of half a peck of lime, half a peck of ashes, 1 pint of salt, and ¼ lb. of saltpetre, and each year thereafter strew around the trunk of the tree at the ground, half a peck of lime.

CATTERPILLARS.

Examine all your fruit trees, and whenever you find a catapillar's nest remove and burn it.

PEARS, PLUMS AND CHERRY-TREES.

If there be any blighted limbs on these, cut the blighted parts off into the sound wood, and burn them.

BUDDING AND INOCULATING.

Plums, Cherries, Apricots and Pears, may be budded or inoculated towards the last of this month.

ORCHARDS.

All decayed fruit as it falls should be gathered and given to the hogs.

If there are any *dead* limbs on your trees, they should be cut off into sound wood; the wound should be made smooth with a drawing knife or some other suitable tool; then treat the wounded part to a dressing of a composition made of 2 part fresh cow-dung, 1 part lime, 1part ashes, and 1 parts salt,—or a mixture comprised of equal parts of rosin, beeswax and turpentine, to be melted and thoroughly incorporated by stirring, to be put on when gently warm. Either of these applications are to be secured by a cap of sugar loaf paper, or cotton.

RUTA-BAGA TURNIPS.

Keep these clear of weeds, and the earth well stirred.

BUSHES, BRIARS, WEEDS.

Make an exterminating war against all these. Don't suffer one to remain in your fields, or along your fence sides.

WET LANDS.

Have you any arable lands that are *wet*? If you have, you should have them drained as speedily as possible.

SPROUTING.

Attend to this during this month and August. Gather the sprouts, put them in piles, and when dry enough, burn them; sow the ashes on your meadows as far as they will go, or mix them in your compost heap.

DEEP PLOUGHING.

As you will soon be preparing your wheat ground, we would respectfully advise you, if your ground be not wet, to plough it deeply, say from 6 to 8 inches deep, according to the character of the soil. After you have ploughed, harrowed and rolled it, give it two or three workings at intervals of two weeks apart. This will go far towards cleansing it of weeds, will pulverise the soil thoroughly, and greatly improve its condition for the further reception of the seed wheat; let one of the harrowings be just before seeding, and be sure to roll before you seed. Such preparation of your wheat land will greatly tend to increase its productive powers. When you seed, be sure to put in plenty of seed, so that *all* the ground may be occupied with wheat plants, instead of part with wheat and part with weeds.

Wheat land deeply ploughed, properly water-furrowed, and the water furrows carefully kept open for the free passage of the water, in winter and early spring, are the important agents in preventing the wheat from being winter killed.

FENCES.

Examine personally the whole line of your fences where you have crops growing, and have them speedily repaired wherever they may need them. If you do not attend to this, when the pastures get bad, your own, as well as your neighbor's stock will break in and destroy your crops.

TOOLS, IMPLEMENTS, WAGONS, CARTS.

Keep these always in good repair, and when not in use, under cover, as exposure to the weather does more injury than does the judicious use of them.

OILING MACHINES.

None but the best oil should be used in oiling machinery. In winter the best cold pressed spermaceti oil should be used—in summer, winter pressed lard oil will answer. The gum and other impurities, which abound in inferior oils, wear out more machinery than any other cause. Previous to being oiled, the parts requiring oiling, should be cleansed with a cloth, sponge, or cotton waste.

[FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.]

THE PRESENT STATE OF AGRICULTURE, AND THE POSITION OF AGRICULTURISTS.

BY PATUXENT PLANTER.

Under the above text, gentlemen, Editors of the "*Farmer*," I deem a few pertinent remarks and suggestions would not be inappropriate for the first number of a new vol. of your journal, distinguished as it is, not more, by its being truly the patriarchal organ of American agriculture, than for the dignity and ability with which it has always been conducted, and the great benefits it has conferred upon the farmers of our glorious Republic. I trust the views expressed may not be distasteful to your many readers, with whose interests my own are identified, and to the success and prosperity of which all my humble aspirations are directed, and about which the liveliest sympathies of my heart are ever clustering.

The *times* and present condition of the markets of the world, show more prominently than perhaps ever before, the importance of agriculture, and the dependence of mankind upon the labors of the tillers of the soil. The heretofore despised and neglected husbandman, is now looked to by the lordlings and the masses for food, and he is now urged and prayed, to use his utmost efforts to supply sustenance to the non-producers of the earth. He has by reason of the present state of things, become an object of notice, and a *thing* of some value in the economy of mankind. His views, his acts, his prospects and labors are noticed, and he is encouraged to great efforts, sympathised with in his failures, and rejoiced with in his success. At *last*, he is admitted by the political and commercial world to be a sort of left-handed member of the same family of man, and nearly

equal in respectability to the politician, professional man, merchant and literary penny-a-liner. Well! "it is indeed an ill wind that blows nobody any good." This productive land of ours, capable of feeding the whole human race, last year under the inscrutable decrees of Providence, made not more breadstuffs than were necessary for a liberal home supply, while the drought so destroyed both the forage and herbage crops, as to cause the loss by death of thousands of animals, and loss of millions of pounds of flesh, so that meat is getting up to famine prices. In the Old World half a million of men have been withdrawn from the fields, to become wasteful *consumers* for a time, and die at last in the ditch, to serve their masters, the rapacious tyrants of Europe, who pretend to desire the preservation of an imaginary *balance of power*, and the suppression of negro slavery; but in truth, that they may the more completely rivet the bonds of their enslaved whites. An unfavorable season in this country, and the arrogance of European Monarchs have thus unitedly exhibited in appalling colors, the utter dependence of the non-producers of human food, and has at once given light to the formerly obscured importance of the farmer. Agriculture as an art, compared with what it was when the "*American Farmer*" was first published, has made great advancement—mechanical ingenuity and science, have made discoveries that have lessened labor, rendered cultivation of the soil easier and more perfect, and greatly increased the productive powers of the earth. Agricultural implements have been brought to great perfection, and machinery has performed wonders, new fertilizing elements have been discovered, and wonderfully aided in restoring exhausted land, and developing to a greater extent the resources of nature. All this has been accomplished, but all this falls far short of the great aim and end of the enlightened owners and workers of the land we live on, and which feeds and clothes millions of human beings. We have but gone through the elementary branches of our education as farmers —we are but just ready to be admitted into the high school of agriculture. We have just advanced far enough to know that we *know nothing* of our duties, our rights and our privileges. We but begin to feel our strength, and to experience the consciousness that nothing is wanted, but the will to plume our wings for a far loftier flight, to enable us to soar in regions which nature's God intended for us, but from which our more ambitious fellow men have excluded us. It is for a journal like the "*Farmer*" to furnish such information as will be calculated to inspire the minds, and elevate the thoughts of tillers of the soil, to a full comprehension of this enlarged action, and extended education suited to the high vocation they have chosen. We want our interest represented faithfully and ably in the Legislative halls, and at the National and State Council Boards. We do not desire protective laws, but we protest, (and ought to have our staunch friends in places of power, where such a protest would have effect) against President making treaties, such as injure the farming interest, because it is modest and still-mouthed, to benefit the complaining, noisy consumers. We would not have the commercial and manufacturing classes incommoded, but we will never consent to *protection* for them by our total ruin. Why should the vine growers, and growers of wheat in these United States be forced to compete in our own markets with the like products of France and England, when in the French and English markets, American wines and cotton, tobacco and grain have to pay duties which almost amount to a prohibition?—for indeed, the tobacco planter in France can only sell a certain amount, and only *that* amount to the royal monopolist *Louis Napoleon*, or any other interloper who may be, at the moment, ruler of that fickle people and chamelion-like government. Identified as we are with the industrial classes, it is a source of pleasure and pride to see them prosperous, and we rejoice to see legislation aid our ingenious and enlightened mechanics in rearing institutes that reflect such honor on our people, and conduce so largely to our comforts and happiness; but it was niggardliness in our legislature to refuse like aid to the farmers of Maryland when they asked it for the benefit of the State Society, which of itself has added thousands of dollars to the wealth of the State, and brought thousands into her limits, expended annually by citizens of other States visiting the annual exhibitions.

We want Statesmen connected with our peculiar interest, men who have learned by the study of political economy in what the real wealth of a state consists;—men educated with liberal views and high toned sentiments, like the lamented *Holcomb*, who made researches into the politics of agriculture, and looked into the statistics of the country, thus fortifying himself with arguments and facts, fearlessly defended agricultural rights, and boldly denounced wrongs in "*high places.*" To accomplish these ends, farmers must educate their sons as *farmers*. To do this, suitable colleges must be established, where all the arts and sciences appertaining to agricultural pursuit, could be learned and *practically* illustrated on an experimental farm attached to the college. One should not exist without the other, for it is apparent to every one who thinks wisely at all, that although science has done great things for this pursuit, yet it is so far imperfect, that no philosopher or chemist can in his study or laboratory, by analysis, or otherwise give a recipe suitable to the many various localities, crops and soils. An approach to accuracy can only be obtained by experience derived from experiments under the guidance and light of the established principles of science. This is, however, what we ought to prepare for *posterity*. We of the present day want more information in the way of correct reports, as to the state of the crops growing, and grown, as well as the demand for them. Greater attention should be given by the farmers to the statistics of the country; more frequent and regular information should be received by them, of the exact condition of their business; they would then be armed with facts, and arguments to meet such buyers as might be disposed to undervalue their products. Unless the farmer has correct data to base his calculations upon, he cannot properly, or prudently fix a price upon such articles as he may have for sale. Any product which is scarce and in great demand, must bring high prices under the immutable laws of trade. They should support a national paper, published semi-monthly, giving correct information of the state of the European crops and markets, and the condition of crops in every county, of every State of the Union. This could be easily done, and would form a reliable price-current, furnishing facts upon which every man could form his own conclusions whether to sell or hold over his crops, and fix in his own mind the proper price to demand. This is the daily practice of the merchant. He varies his

scale of prices, even to the fraction of a cent, according to the shades of scarcity or abundance of an article in market. Why should not the farmer take advantage of the shortness of a crop? Every thing he has to buy, has advanced. Why should he sell his hard earned produce at the old low rates? Is he at all advanced in fortune by high prices, if his crops have failed in like proportion? Is he not still greatly the loser, because he not only has less to sell in proportion as the price is increased, but that little has cost him greatly more to produce it, than it would have done when every thing was plenty. Labor is enormously high, or the laborer would not be able to support himself. So with every thing required to produce crops,—such as horses and oxen, lumber, mechanics' work, &c. Take one example at present prices, a farmer with one man makes 60 barrels of corn, and gets for it, $330 00

The hire of the man,	$150 00	
The interest on cost of a pair of horses at $250,	15 00	
Cost of feeding the horses,	100 00	$265 00
Balance in his favor,		$65 00

Under the times of low prices of produce and heavy crops, this would be the statement, 120 barrels of corn at $2 $240 00

CONTRA.

Hire of man,	$75 00	
Interest on cost of 2 horses,	12 00	
Cost of feeding the horses,	50 00	137 00
		$103 00

or nearly double the amount of money, besides extra amount of provender for feeding extra stock, and making more manure. It is easily shown that the farmers are losers by very high prices, caused as they always are by general failures of crops for one or more successive years. There are other causes for the necessity of *high* prices, independent of the scarcity of every thing edible. The census exhibits the fact that not one-fifth of the population, including free blacks and slaves are engaged in agriculture in all its branches, even when florists, hop-growers, and horticulturists and *gardeners* are included, beside the *masses of cotton growers*, none of which classes may be said to contribute to the general stock of bread and meat, consumed by the strictly non-producers. Therefore, the actual number of producers of bread and meat, of all ages and sexes, both slave and free, do not exceed 2,000,000. We have then to look to the labor of two to support twelve or thirteen. That is, *two million* have to furnish necessary food for 25,000,000. So precarious has been the success of farming of late years, that other more certain and enticing ways of a livelihood, and cheering avenues to wealth, have induced the diversion of labor into different channels, rather than to the plodding culture of the earth. The statistics show that the amount of agricultural productions has decreased greatly since the census of 1840, in many particulars, and in others where an increase has been effected, that increase is nothing in proportion to the increase of population, and therefore increased demand. For instance, a decrease of tobacco in 1850 of twenty millions of pounds since 1840, and an increase during those *ten years* in wheat of less than 16,000,000, or about fifteen per cent. while the consumers of wheat have increased at least thirty per cent. Beside these facts, the metallic currency of the country has been enormously extended by the never ceasing flow of gold from the Pacific Eldorado, and the equally prolific mines of Australia. What else can be the result of this state of things, but inflated prices of all articles necessary for human comfort and sustenance, or the total prostration of agricultural operations, and the hopeless destitution of the planters and farmers. It is therefore meet and right, and a matter of necessity with them, to hold up for the full value of what they have paid so dearly to produce, independent of the terrible casualties to which their labors have been subjected within the last two or three years. It is to be hoped that prices may keep up to a remunerating standard, with good crops, for it is well settled that the more flourishing the agriculture of a country is, the more general and greater becomes the prosperity of its people.

I cannot close this paper without expression of the pleasure it afforded me to see the action of the officers of the State Agricultural Society upon Dr. De Coursey's resolution, proposed in support of the suggestions of your polished President. If the project is ever carried out, our farmers must be largely benefitted. It is very easily done, and with little inconvenience, but the "Farmer" could extend it to each school district in the State, and by the additional charge of fifty cents per year, could issue semi-monthly a full comprehensive statement from reliable sources, thus forming an authoritative price-current.

[FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.]

THE RIGHTS OF AGRICULTURISTS.

I propose to offer a few suggestions on the above subject, and trust that any comparisons or illustrations, which I may deem necessary to make, will be received in the spirit in which they are offered, and not tortured into an offensive attack upon other combinations, as they will be used simply to show why other interests are protected, while Agriculture is left to languish and die. In discussing this GREAT question, I feel that agriculturists owe a debt of gratitude to the very able and learned gentleman, the Rev. Mr. Robinson, of Baltimore, who delivered the address last year before the Maryland State Agricultural Society, and I trust another effort will be made to obtain that address for publication, as it would do more to arouse the profession to a just appreciation of the importance of placing this great interest in the position it should occupy in every country, than all I have seen, heard or read before or since that time. In his language, "In the commencement of the world, Agriculture was the first and only pursuit of man, and would have continued so to this day, but for the sin of man, and consequently all other professions arose from the sin of man."

All must acknowledge the truth and force of this remark, and it is rather astonishing that all other professions should be united and combined together, as it would seem, to punish the cultivators of the soil for this sin which brought them into existence. In the commencement, I beg leave to discard the hackneyed doctrine that Agriculturists have nothing to do with politics. Politics, according to Webster, is "the science of Government; that part of ethics which consists in the regulation and Government of a Nation or State, for the preservation of its safety, peace and prosperity," and it is in this acceptation that I intend to urge upon agriculturists to engage in it, and not in the

sense in which it is ordinarily used, viz: the science which will put one party in power and keep the other out; for with this kind of Politics I will have no intercourse, as I most fully concur in the sentiment that agriculturists have nothing to do with Politics of the latter kind. I trust they will hold off, and have nothing to do with any of these isms, for they will certainly be betrayed, if they place themselves in the power of any of them, it matters not which.

Certainly no one will contend that Agriculturists have nothing to do with the preservation, safety, peace and prosperity of the country, because it cannot be denied that its prosperity is entirely dependent upon their exertions, and consequently I contend that Agriculture should be the first interest to be considered in legislating for the general welfare, and I cannot illustrate this idea more beautifully than by again quoting from our distinguished orator of last year, who said that Mr. Adams, in advocating in Congress our claim to Oregon, declared it was to be found in the 28th verse of the first book of Genesis, which reads, "Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth and subdue it." The eloquent orator, in commenting upon this text, showed that all nations which had preceded ours, had prospered so long as they followed the injunction contained therein, and were satisfied "to replenish and subdue the earth," but so soon as they turned their ploughshares into swords and commenced to subdue and destroy mankind, that from that moment they began to languish and decay.

Now I ask agriculturists to pause a moment and look around and see whether our Government has ever given much encouragement to its citizens "to subdue and replenish the earth." It has established military and naval schools, where our youths are taught the science of destroying mankind; but where is one for teaching them the science "of replenishing and subduing the earth." Will agriculturists tolerate this any longer? Will they assist this and that party into power to gratify the wishes of certain aspirants for office, or will they not rather determine to unite and band themselves together and demand that THE great interest that feeds all, clothes all, and pays all, shall be considered and protected in legislating for the general welfare? Until they unite in a determination to carry out this principle of action, nothing can be affected for the permanent prosperity of this great interest; but if once determined upon, the object is easily effected, as they compose four-fifths of the population of the country, and their will is the law.

It has been said that the Constitution has not conferred on Congress the power to establish an Agricultural Department or Agricultural Schools; but I would ask those strict constructionists, where they find in the Constitution the power to establish Military and Naval Departments and Schools, for if any power is found for the one, it is equally applicable to the other. Our Government is formed upon the republican doctrine that the people are capable of self government, and therefore four-fifths of the people (composing the Agricultural class) have the right to determine what interests should be protected and fostered. Look at the present destructive and desolating war raging in Europe, and I ask you to examine for yourselves its causes and consequences, and then consider how easily we may also be subjected to a similar calamity. Think you if Agriculturists had controlled the different Governments of Europe that this war would have occurred? No, never, for if those Governments had pursued the policy of encouraging their people to "replenish and subdue the earth" in place of seeking to increase their own political power, it could not have occurred. England commenced a war on her agriculturists by a change in the Corn Laws, and that for the benefit of her manufactures and commerce, and following in her footsteps, our Government is daily progressing to the same end. Those who have been of late, and are now administering our Government, not satisfied in giving no kind of encouragement to the agricultural interest, are doing all in their power to destroy it by piecemeal. They have not dared to attempt to break the bundle of sticks as a whole, for fear of alarming this great interest and combining them to overthrow their enemies, but they have separated and destroyed them one at a time, until we have lost nearly every feature beneficial to the agricultural interest in the revenue system of the Government. Without going far back, look at the Reciprocity treaty, and the attempt in the last Congress, on the recommendation, I believe, of the Secretary of the Treasury, to take the duty off of wool, &c. I ask agriculturists if they will continue to offer up not only their sheep's throats, but their whole interests as a sacrifice to appease the morbid appetites of other classes—for such legislation must produce such a result. The whole Legislation of the country, for a long time, has been framed with a view to conform to the wishes of the manufacturing and commercial interests, and so it will continue until we demand at the ballot-box, our right to a Cabinet Minister, who will watch over and protect our interest in the Cabinet Councils. You ask how is this to be effected, and I respectfully reply by calling upon you all as a body, to have nothing to do with any of the present political parties, that are producing such an agitation over the country for their seven principles, (five loaves and two fishes) but hold public meetings of those interested in the cultivation of the soil, discuss and talk over the interests of agriculturists without reference to other classes, and send delegates to a Convention who shall agree upon an agricultural platform, which will be mutually beneficial to all sections of the Union, and this will be no difficult task, provided you keep out of the Convention all who have interests paramount to agriculture. After establishing such a platform, let every agriculturist go to the polls, and support no man for any of the Executive or Legislative departments of the State or General Governments who will not pledge himself to carry out that platform of principles. You will then have a happy, free and prosperous people, and a Government fostering the great interest of the country, in the place of one studying solely the means and measures necessary to perpetuate power and offices in the hands of its friends. Washington, and all his successors, except the present incumbent of the Executive Mansion, urged upon Congress encouragement to Agriculture, but although urging the importance of the other classes, is it not rather astonishing that this great interest should not be even mentioned in any of his public messages.

CHARLES B. CALVERT.

Riversdale, May 31, 1855.

☞Many a farmer, by too sparingly seeding his new meadows, has had to cede his whole farm.

VALUE OF TURNIPS IN FEEDING STOCK.

To the Editors of the American Farmer.

In looking over, as I have done with much pleasure for some length of time, the numerous and varied valuable essays and communications published in the Farmer, I have been astonished to see so little attention paid by your correspondents to reports upon the culture of the Ruta Baga turnip, and nought but the hope of enhancing the interest of my fellow-farmers, has induced me to thus trespass upon your time and the sheets of your valuable paper, by requesting you to publish the following experiments made by myself during the past winter. I commenced feeding my pen of stock Hogs about the last week in November, having two large brood sows and ten shoats, twelve in all, the shoats averaging about forty pounds each. They were at that time fed two bushels of short corn per day; finding after a week's feeding at this rate a considerable change for the worse, I ordered more corn for them—finding they still did not thrive, I determined to try the Ruta Baga boiled with a small quantity of corn meal. I commenced upon two bushels of the roots chopped and boiled with *two gallons* of meal per day, and much to my surprise, in a very few days there was a very apparent change for the better, not only in the general appearance of the hogs, but also in their spirits, for talk as you please, the nature of animals in that respect approximates very closely to that of man; neither thrive when in low spirits. This feeding was continued as long as my turnips lasted, with the exception of two weeks of extremely cold weather about the first of February, during which time I could not get at the turnips, the kilns being frozen, and even this interruption in their food caused them to fall off although they had all the corn they would eat. My turnips gave out in March, and there was a considerable falling off until my hogs were turned to grass.

In *fattening Beeves*, I think them the best root which can be raised—we have fattened several fine beeves upon fodder and turnips, with no corn; in fattening them they are always stalled and allowed *no water*. For *Milch Cows* I think them inferior to either pumpkins or field carrots. Now Messrs. Editors, my reasoning is this: if twelve hogs can be kept in better order upon

1 peck of meal, say 25 cts. market price
2 bushels of turnips 37 " " "

62 cts.

than upon 1 1-4 bushels of shelled corn, or 2½ bushels in the ear, worth then $1 per bushel, an exact saving of half, would it not be much more to the interest of our farmers to cultivate one, two, or even five acres in turnips, than to rely entirely, as many do, upon their corn houses and fodder stacks.

In looking over some old numbers of one of the numerous agricultural papers, I have noticed where eleven hundred and eighty bushels of turnips were raised to the acre, and in favorable seasons never less than three hundred; the average crop so far as I am able to judge is about four hundred and fifty bushels, equivalent in my estimation to one hundred and fifty bushels of corn, shelled corn, which our best land will not produce by a pretty considerable wide gap. I intend sowing at least three times as many this year as we have ever done, and wish to make more thorough experiments during the coming winter—and should these rough ideas be deemed worthy a space in your valuable paper—shall be happy, should "life, health and the turnips" hold out, to give you my entire experiments conducted upon a larger and more careful scale. Yours, &c., J. R. G.

IVERSON'S RESCUE GRASS.

To the Editors of the American Farmer.

I learn that various accounts have been returned of the Iverson rescue grass—some favorable, some otherwise. In justice to Mr. Iverson and for the good of the farmers generally, I beg you will publish my testimony in its favor. I purchased one peck and cultivated it as he directed on a poor piece of land, and it came fully up to his representation in every respect. The past winter was the coldest, longest and most favorable for testing the grass that we have had for thirty years—it grew luxuriantly and was as green as Spring wheat and ten or twelve inches high in the middle of winter.* I have on my farm, Herds, Timothy, Orchard and Meadow Oat Grasses, and I consider Iverson's far superior to any and every kind of grass I have ever seen, and to any farmer they are worth five times the price asked, twenty dollars per bushel.

Very respectfully, yours,
JOHN RUCKER.

Lynchburg, Va., June 5, 1855.

* I am now gathering the seeds and will get 8 to 10 bushels from the peck, besides feeding a thousand birds and leaving the seed as thick as hail on the ground.

FORESTVILLE, W. C., N. C., June 1st.

To the Editors of the American Farmer.

I find in the May No. of the American Farmer you have received one or two favorable reports of the Iverson grass. I like many others tried (what is pronounced by some in this section, to be one of the greatest humbugs of the day,) the Iverson grass, and as far as my experience goes I am well pleased with it. I sowed last September a peck of seed on ½ of an acre of land, in drills 2 feet apart; all the manure the lot received was the droppings of 8 or 10 head of cattle, for 6 or 8 weeks. I did not graze it down, seed being the object. I cut it the 21st of May, and have threshed and cleaned it nicely, and it measured 9½ bushels of seed, which is at the rate of 38 to 1. I let it get too ripe before I cut, and there was enough shattered off to sow four such lots broadcast—so says every person that has seen the lot since cut. The hay is first rate—I have in the same lot on one side Oats, on the other Wheat, manured with 50 bushels of cotton seed to the acre, and I am confident neither will make any thing like such a yield to the quantity seeded. My humble opinion is, that for hay it cannot be surpassed either for grazing or manuring. I intend seeding a lot broadcast in July, and with it I intend sowing peas also. If it succeeds well I will inform you of the result.

Yours respectfully,
A SUBSCRIBER.

A NEW SUPPLY OF GUANO.—In the British House of Commons, the Ministry in reply to an inquiry said that a despatch had recently been received by the Board of Trade from the Foreign office, giving an account of the discovery of a valuable deposit of Guano in the neighborhood of the Sandwich Islands.

SUFFOLK SWINE.

The above cut shows the Suffolk boar, "Moses Wheeler" in two positions, and a Suffolk sow, which as one of a pen of three received the first prize of the Royal Agricultural Society of England in 1853. They were imported and are now owned by Josiah & Isaac Stickney of Boston. They are both very superior animals. The best judges pronounce the boar nearly the ultimatum of perfection in his species. He is large enough to weigh, with ordinary fattening, 450 lbs., dressed; he has great strength of constitution, remarkable symmetry and justness of proportion, with uncommon tendency to fatten. The figures, though generally faithful, fail to do the original justice, in some particulars. The boar, for instance, is not represented quite as deep through the shoulders as he really is, and the sow's ears are drawn too large. It may be mentioned that these swine are considerably more coated than some Suffolks; they have fine, wavy bristles over the whole body.

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.—*Agricultural Divison of the Patent Office.—Insects injurious and beneficial to vegetation.*—It may not generally be known that the Commissioner of Patents, Judge Mason, has had employed in this branch of the office Mr. Townsend Glover, an artist and naturalist of distinction, for the purpose of investigating the habits of the insects injurious and beneficial to crops, and illustrating the same with the view of describing them, with the remedies for their diminution or destruction, and all other information on the subject in the agricultural reports. He has recently left for Florida, where he will pass several months studying the insects pernicious or beneficial to rice, tobacco, sugar cane, orange, and the cotton plant, and also to discover the cause and remedy, if practicable, of the white rot in the live oak. Mr. Glover has been engaged during the year past in watching the operations of the rice and cotton insects in the Carolinas, Georgia, Alabama, the corn and grain insects of the middle and northern States, and the insects attacking vines and fruit trees in general, as well as numerous insects beneficial to the farmer.

Many of the insects referred to above he has engraved on stone, which are now in progress of printing, and will illustrate the next agricultural report. As the subject is one of unusual interest, and will tend to the benefit of all sections of the Union, we trust the indefatigable efforts of this gentleman will receive the hearty co-operation of the agriculturists throughout the country, and his labors be crowned with success.—*Wash. Union.*

The Horse.

ON THE IMPORTANCE OF VENTILATING STABLES IN VIEW OF PREVENTING DISEASE.

BY G. H. DADD, V. S.

"*Prevention* is cheaper than cure."

We feel that we are but performing a duty which should not be omitted, in calling the earnest attention of those interested, to the following common-sense remarks of Dr. Dadd, which we copy from the Massachusetts Ploughman upon a subject of universal importance:

It was the intention of the *Creator*, that all animals, so long as they were permitted to exercise their natural instincts, and thus comply with the requirements of physiology—the science of life—should enjoy health and long life. Hence a great amount of disease and death results from evils of domestication.

One of the conditions, which physiology imposes, in order that a horse shall enjoy health, is:—that the atmosphere, at all times, and under all circumstances, shall be uncontaminated, so that the blood shall be decarbonized and purified of the defiling elements acquired in the course of circulation.

Let the reader understand that the lungs are something like a sponge, elastic, composed of a myriad of cells. In the former, however, these cells have a vast internal surface, communicating with each other up to their common origin, the bronchial tubes and windpipe. On their internal surface we find a delicate yet highly important membrane permeable to atmosphere; in extent, it is supposed to occupy a square surface equal to that of the external body. In contact with this membrane comes the atmosphere. If pure—zephyr-like—it fans into a healthful blaze the flame of life, upheaving from the living Vesuvius arid lava, in the form of carbonic acid gas, almost as destructive to animality as that issuing from its great prototype to vegetation.

The stable atmosphere being pure and the lungs in working order, the blood is well arterialized, capable of supplying the waste of the animal machine and renovating its tissues.

On the other hand, should the atmosphere be impure, it fails to vitalize the blood; the latter is unfit for the purpose of nutrition, and may be considered a non-supporter of vitality. Hence the need of pure air, the breath of life.

But, are horses always furnished with pure air? Let the owner of unventilated, crowded, filthy, down cellar and low roofed stables answer.

Let those who have stables in the region of swamp, sewer, and stagnant pools of water, answer.

In such locations disease and death run riot: and the noble companion of man instead of being within the ramparts of the science of life, is on the margin of death's domain. He may exist for several days without food and water: yet the consequent result is nothing, when compared to that occasioned by breathing an atmosphere highly charged with emanations, arising from his own body, excrements, and decomposing bedding.

A horse is said to consume, in the lungs, in the course of twenty-four hours, ninety-seven ounces of carbon, furnished by venous blood; in order to perform this feat he requires 190 cubic feet of oxygen. Now suppose there are ten horses occupying the stable, they require in the same time 1900 cubic feet oxygen, and consume 970 ounces of carbon. They are supposed, also, to give out from the lungs a volume of carbonic acid gas, equal to that of the oxygen inspired; and supposing the atmosphere to be saturated with only five per centum of the former, it is a non-supporter of life.

Hence a horse shut up in an unventilated stable must sooner or later become the subject of disease; the evil may be postponed, but the day of reckoning is sure and certain.

Diseases, such as *horse-ail*, *influenza*, *catarrh*, *strangles* and *glanders*, often originate and prevail to an alarming extent in the unventilated stable and pest spot; while in other locations, favorable to the free and full play of vital operations, the favored ones seem to enjoy a remarkable immunity from the prevailing disease, or epizootic.

Stablemen and husbandmen are often led to remark, that when they keep but few animals, disease and death, except in cases of accident or old age, are quite rare, but so soon as they *crowded* the same, sickness and death were the consequences.

In view of supporting this theory, I may be permitted to remark that *ship* and jail fevers may be manufactured *ad libitum*, at any time when a large number of persons are congregated together in a given space; no provision having been made for the admission of pure air. The unfortunate prisoners in the *Black Hole* of Calcutta are an example, and the mortality occurring on board our emigrant ships furnishes another illustration.

A number of horses were once shipped from England to Spain, and on the passage, a violent gale arising, it became necessary to *batter down* the hatchway; the consequence was that most of them ultimately died of either *glanders* or *farcy*.

I contend therefore that the active or morbid germ of disease enters the living citidal through the pulmonary tissue, in an insidious manner; and therefore much oftener than the generality of men would be likely to relize. Therefore it is a matter of vital importance that attention be paid to the ventilation of our stables.

If proper sanitary regulations were established, and fully carried out in all our stables, *glanders* and other infectious diseases would be exceedingly rare; they are so, among horses free from control of man; whose stalls are broad, as from ocean to ocean, their height ranging from earth to regions above; the space pervaded by a pure atmosphere concocted by the Great Chemist, pure as the pearly drops, and refreshing as the morning zephyr. In such locations death hath no terrors nor disease any victims.

Therefore, I entreat the husbandman to ventilate his stable, and thus prevent *unnecessary* disease.

G. H. DADD.

HOLLOW HORN.—Dr. Dadd, at a recent meeting of the Massachusetts Legislative Agricultural meeting, made the following remarks on the subject:

"Dr. DADD, of Boston, said, veterinary science has been long neglected in this country. There were many who pretended to prescribe for diseases

of animals without knowing anything about them, and would commence some funny operations.

"They would examine the horns and would sometimes bore into them, and perhaps let out a little pus, if they found the horn cold.

"He considered, however, that heat or cold on the surface were only *symptoms*. If the surface was hot, the circulation was active; if cold the reverse was true.

"There was a communication from the horn to the nares, or nostril, and any pus in the horn would of course run down through the nostril, instead of upwards into the horns!

"Sometimes this might become tenacious, so as to stop the passage. Then it was requisite to steam the nostril to make it run down. By penetrating the living membrane, or admitting the atmospheric air by boring, inflammation was apt to ensue.

"He maintained there was no such disease as 'horn ail.' Has examined animals said to die of horn ail. Has found a softening of the brain. And this arises often from an improper condition of the stomach. Many diseases of the brain originate in the stomach.

"There is a perfect channel to the tip of every horn. There are longitudinal divisions of the horn, and if in boring, the gimlet hits one of the partitions, it seems to be solid. If it chances to go between two of these partitions it would appear to be hollow.

"The cold horn is really only a circumstance indicative of the state of circulation in the system."

Training a Balky Horse.—*The Michigan Farmer* says, a horse became balky in Detroit a short time since, and neither whipping nor coaxing could make him stir. A rope was then fastened round his neck and he was dragged a short distance by another team, but this did not effect a cure. The rope was then taken from his neck, passed between his legs and fastened firmly to his tail. In this manner he was drawn a short distance, and when the rope was taken off, the hitherto unruly animal was perfectly obedient to the will of his master. We have seen this method tried with similar results.

Founder in Horses.—Mr. E. L. Perham, in the Country Gentleman, gives the following recipe, which he says he has used and recommended for fifteen years, and so far as experience goes, *it is a sure and speedy remedy*. Take a table-spoonful of pulverized alum, pull the horse's tongue out of his mouth as far as possible, and throw the alum down his throat; let go of his tongue and hold up his head until he swallow. In six hours time (no matter how bad the founder,) he will be fit for moderate service. Mr. P. adds:—I have seen this remedy tested so often with perfect success, that I would not make five dollars difference in a horse founded (if done recently,) and one that was not.

N. Carolina Land.—Those inclined to a good speculation in land, will no doubt find an opportunity in that offerd for sale on the Roanoke, advertised in this number by Jno. W. Palmer Esq,.—The improvement in agriculture, which is now making in that State, shows what can be done by a proper display of energy, and there is probably no location where investments of the kind offered are more likely to pay well than in N. Carolina.

CULTURE OF THE SWEET POTATOE.

The following method of raising sweet potatoes, was furnished to the *Soil of the South* by one of its contributors, who says it was highly successful last year, notwithstanding the long drouth and great heat, his crop measuring three hundred and seventy-two bushels heaping measure to the acre, and much larger than any raised in his section of the country. What section this is we have not been able to learn, but we suppose it is Georgia or Alabama. Of course, it would have to be modified in some respects to suit the climate:

"About the middle of February, I open a bed four feet wide, six inches deep, and of sufficient length, and fill with fresh stable manure, (to generate heat;) cover with one inch soil; take the seed from the bank, break them into pieces, of suitable size for planting; then spread them evenly and close over the bed, and cover with four inches of earth, and leave them to sprout; when you find they have all sprouted, (say middle of March,) spread over your land a good coat of stable manure; also sow, broadcast, three hundred pounds of guano, and one hundred and fifty pounds of plaster per acre; plough all in with a large two-horse plough, running *close* and as *deep* as the horse can draw it; check it off three and a half feet each way, and draw up hills as high and large as the place will admit of; let one hand go ahead with a stick four feet long and two inches in diameter, sharpened to a blunt point, and make a hole in each six inches deep; open the bed carefully and take out the seed without breaking off the sprouts, and drop one piece in each hill and cover. When the potatoes and grass come up, run one furrow each way with a solid sweep—which will shave off the upper half; in two or three weeks, another coat of grass will have come and the potatoe vines be running: run twice in each row, throwing the dirt up to the hills; after ploughing out, place the vines in the rows ploughed, and plough the others; then cross the plough with a long rooter, running twice in a row, and draw up the hill to its first size with a hoe, leaving the top like a saucer; *particularly avoid covering any part of the vine;* whenever covered they put out roots, which materially diminish their product.

My success was owing to high manuring, deep and thorough cultivation, and an early start, on sandy soil.

The cost of raising was eight cents a bushel! $20 for manure, and $10 for cultivating; $30 per acre—272 bushels, at 8 cents is $29,76.

They were gathered by ploughing—no hoe being used—small hands following the plough and picking them up—the larger hands cutting off the vines close to the hill with knives and dragging them out of the way, made the gathering easy and expeditious. None were cut and very few left in the ground."

Nothing Grows in Vain.—We understand that an enterprising German is about to secure a patent for the discovery of flax, or its equivalent, in fifteen different kinds of weeds. The discovery is to be turned to account in the manufacture of numerous articles of which flax is the principal, but especially in the manufacture of paper, which is a matter of deep interest just now to the publishing world, the scarcity of rags being a great embarrassment to business.—*National Intelligencer.*

FRUIT TREES.

The "*Horticultrist*" for June, in a leading editorial alludes to an evil to which we have frequently called attention—the purchasing of trees, &c., from peddlers. After patiently waiting for years, in expectation of enjoying the fruits from trees planted with your own hands, to find on their coming to maturity, that you have had imposed upon you a worthless article, instead of the luscious product you had anticipated, is a trial of patience which the best regulated mind cannot endure. The "Horticulturist" alludes to the many impositions which are being practised upon the public in various departments of trade and commerce, and shows that the frauds practised are not confined th the tree pedlars, but to various other articles of food and drink. But to the particular subject before us, we must confine these remarks—and in obedience to the hint of the editor, we publish the word of warning to our Southern readers. The following among other instances are noticed of the rascalities being practised by these harpies :

"A short time ago a gentleman from one of the Eastern States called on us, and inquired for a person who he said had sold large quantites of Apple trees in his neighborhood, representing himself to be the proprietor of one of the oldest and most extensive nurseries in Western New York, and representing also that his trees were propagated by some superior method which was known to him only, and which gave them a decided superiority over trees grown in the ordinary way. On inquiry, we found this man did not own a single foot of land, had never been a nurseryman, nor had he any interest whatever in any nursery establishment, but bought such trees as he could make the largest profit on. He was a crafty rogue, however—pretended more than ordinary piety, and victimized the religious people of New England handsomely. A few weeks ago a nurseryman of Rochester received intelligence that he was represented in some parts of Ohio by a person who claimed to be his agent and *son*, while he not only did not know such a person, but had never seen him or heard of him before, and he was compelled to incur the trouble and expense of advertising him as an impostor. Is not this a high-handed peice of deception to be attempted in such a business, and among an intelligent people? The man who will do such a thing is not a particle better than he who counterfeits a bank bill or a silver dollar, or who will forge a signature to a bank check. We have it from perfectly reliable authority, that a company of tree dealers, hailing from Ohio, purchased at a small nursery in Western N. York a quantity of seedling unworked fruit trees, (Peaches and Cherries,) knowing them to be such—for the nurseryman we believe to be a perfectly honest man,—and they took them up and tied them in parcels, attached labels to them bearing the names of all the best fruits in the catalogues. We were informed that these spurious articles were to be carried to Tennessee. Here is a piece of villainy for you! Such men richly deserve the penitentiary, and we can not understand how any honest man could conscientiously refrain from exposing them, and thus aid in bringing them to punishment.

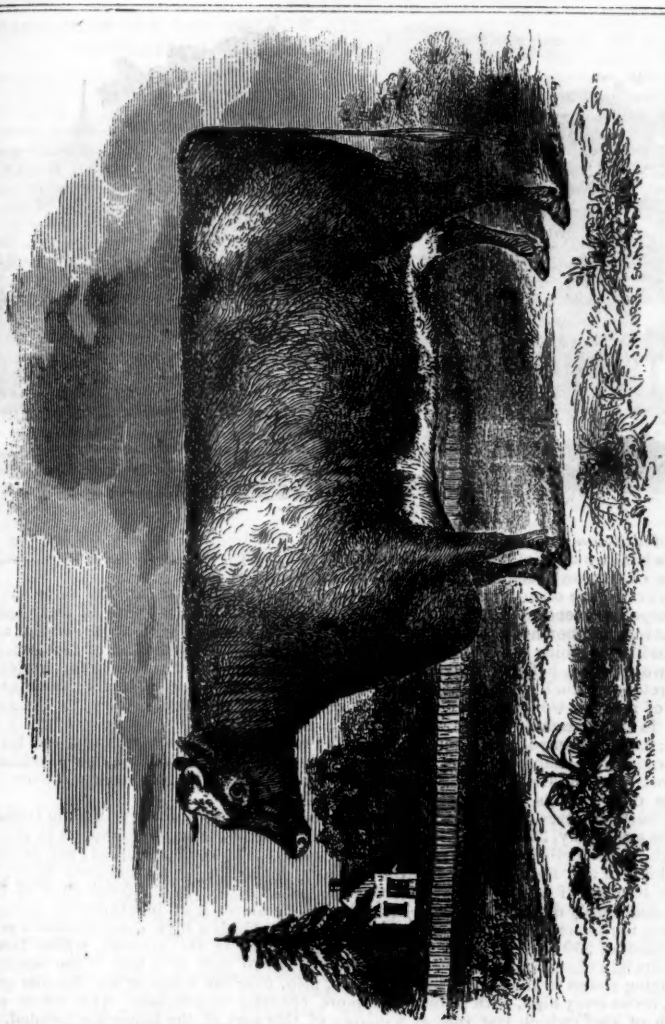
"In every part of the country people have been outrageously deceived by itinerant *grafters*. They traverse the country, and take orders to do grafting at so much apiece for all that live. When the season of grafting comes, a few workmen come along with a wagon-load of scions, containing every variety that could possibly be called for, all procured from the most responsible source; and as a proof of this, a catalogue of some well-known nurseryman is exhibited, and, it may be, a forged bill or invoice, while the scions were most likely cut from some of the orchards they had been grafting in. Thousands of orchards have been ruined in this way. We have now one in our possession which the previous owner had had grafted by one of these rogues, and instead of having some three or four select sorts, as he ordered, he had a collection of vile rubbish, mostly natural fruit, and in some cases three or four different sorts on a tree.

"We might go on and cite cases of this sort which have come to our knowledge enough to fill a dozen pages of this journal, but it would be a waste of time and paper. In this part of the country, people are more cautious and careful than formerly, and few men now are willing to trust unknown irresponsible persons with the important duty of grafting their fruit trees. Not so, however, in some parts of the West and South, where we are informed the speculation is in full blast. We hope this word of warning may find its way there, and prevent at least a few from allowing themselves to be victimized. It is but just to say, in this connection, that there are honest men engaged in this business of grafting—men in all respects worthy of confidence,—and the service they render to fruit-culture is very great. What we have said will be no detriment to them, for they have characters to sustain them and inspire confidence."

To avoid those impositions, farmers should purchase from none but Nurserymen of established character, and known to be trustworthy.

GUANO AS A TOP-DRESSING FOR GRASS.—The editor of the Boston Cultivator gives the following fact, as to the value of top-dressing of Grass lands with Guano, as witnessed on the farm of Mr. E. G. Faile of Westchester county, N. Y. :—

In April, 1854, a small quantity of Peruvian guano, which happened to be left after applications to various crops, was strown over a pasture in breadths, having undressed intervals. No particular note was taken as to the quantity to the acre, but it was probably at the rate of 200 or 300 lbs. Soon after it was sown, the grass became thicker, of a darker green, and grew with so much luxuriance that the part on which the guano fell could be traced almost to an inch. It afforded so much more and sweeter food through the last season, that the stock constantly resorted to it, and kept it closely fed down. The present season, the grass started here in advance of that on the adjoining ground, and has continued to show the same superiority as last year. On examination, we should say there was twice as much grass to the same extent of land on the guanoed part as on the other; the sward was as thick as a mat with white clover, rep-top and blue grass. The soil was a clayey loam, rather moist—precisely the kind on which we should expect the greatest advantages from top-dressing with guano.



"BLOOM."

Winner of the 1st Prize in the Imported Class, at the N. Y. State Agricultural Show, held at Hamilton Square, N. Y., in October, 1854. The property of L. G. Morris, Mount Fordham, N. Y., by whom she was selected and imported in 1852; and since receiving the above Prize, she has produced a red Heifer Calf, sired by "BALCO," (9918,) "BLOOM," red roan, calved January 1850, bred by Mr. Fowle, of North Allerton; Sire, Sir Leonard, (10,627,) Dam (Elviar,) by Eolius, (3733,) g (Golden Pippin,) by Belvidere 2d, (3126,) g g by Alice O, (2995,) g g g by Eclipse, (236,) g g g g by Charges' Grey Bull, (872,) g g g g g by the Paddock Bull, (477,) g g g g g g by Browne's Red Bull, (97.)

White Wash for Outhouses and Fences.—We copy the following recipe from the Scientific American:—Take a clean barrel that will hold water. Put into it half a bushel of quick lime, and slack it by pouring over it boiling water sufficient to cover it four or five inches deep, and stirring it until slaked. When quite slaked, dissolve it in water, and add two pounds of sulphate zinc, and one of common salt, which may be had at any of the druggists, and which in a few days will cause the whitewash to harden on the woodwork. Add sufficient water to bring it to the consistency of thick whitewash.

To make the above wash of a pleasant cream color, add 3 lbs. yellow ochre.

For fawn color, add 4 lbs. umber, 1 lb. Indian red, and 1 lb. lampblack.

For grey or stone color, add 4 lbs. raw umber and 2 lbs. lampblack.

The color may be put on with a common whitewash brush, and will be found much more durable than common whitewash.

FREDERICK CO. (MD.) AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—President, Outerbridge Horsey—Secretary, S. H. O'Neall—Chief Marshal, Michael Keefer—Board of Managers, Rodrick Horsey, Jacob M. Backey, E. H. Delashmutt, Wm. T. Preston, Robt. G. McPherson, S. G. Cockey, B. J. Snouffer, Wm. Richardson, Jno. McPherson, Chas. Gross, H. Duvall, Louis G. Kemp, Jas. Finney, J. Q. A. Kemp, J. B. Thomas, Cor. Staley and Saml. Ahalt.—The next annual exhibition takes place on the 10th to 12th Oct. inclusive, at Frederick city.

FARM HOUSE.

This is the plan of a house and out-buildings based chiefly on one which we built of wood some years since on a farm of our own, and which, in its occupation, has proved to be one of exceeding convenince to the purposes intended. As a farm *business* house, we have not known it excelled; nor in the ease and facility of doing up the house-work within it, do we know a better. It has a subdued, quiet, unpretending look; yet will accommodate a family of a dozen workmen, besides the females engaged in the household work, with perfect convenience; or if occupied by a farmer with but his family around him, ample room is afforded them for a most comfortable mode of life, and sufficient for the requirements of a farm of two, to three or four hundred acres.

This house is, in the main body, 36 × 22 feet, one and half stories high, a projection on the rear 34 × 16 feet, for the kitchen and its offices; and a still further addition to that, of 26 × 18 feet, for washing room. The main body of the house is 14 feet high to the plates; the lower rooms are 9 feet high; the roof has a pitch of 35° from a horizontal line, giving partially-upright chambers in the main building, and *roof* lodging rooms in the rear. The rear, or kitchen part, is one story high, with 10 feet posts, and such pitch of roof (which last runs at right angles to the main body, and laps on to the main roof,) as will carry the peak up to the same air line. This addition should retreat 6 inches from the line of the main building, on the side given in the design, and 18 inches on the rear. The rooms on this kitchen floor are 8 feet high, leaving one foot above the upper floor, under the roof, as a chamber garret, or lumber-room, as may be required. Beyond this, in the rear, is the other extension spoken of, with posts 9 feet high, for a buttery, closet, or dairy, or all three combined, and a wash-room; the floor which is on a level with the last, and the roof running in the same direction, and of the same pitch. In front of this wash-room, where not covered by the wood-house, is an open porch, 8 feet wide and 10 feet long, the roof of which runs out of a less angle than the others—say 30° from a horizontal line. Attached to this is the wood-house, running off by way of L, at the right angles, 36 × 16 feet, of same height as the wash-room.

Adjoining the wood-house, on the same front line, is a building 50 × 20 feet, with 12 feet posts, occupied as a workshop, wagon-house, stable, and store-room, with lean-to on the last of 15 × 10 feet, for a piggery. The several rooms in this building are 8 feet high, affording a good lumber room over the wagon-house and stable. Over the wagon-house is a gable, with a blind window swinging on hinges, for receiving hay, thus relieving the long, uniform line of roof, and affording ample accommodation on each side to a pigeon-house or dovecote, if required.

The style of this establishment is of plain Italian, or bracketed, and may be equally applied to stone, brick, or wood. The roofs are broad, and protect the walls by their full projection over them, 2½ feet. The small gable in the front roof of the main dwelling relieves it of its otherwise straignt uniformity, and affords a high door-window opening on to the deck of the veranda, which latter should be 8 or 10 feet in width. The shallow windows, also, over the wings of the veranda give it a more cheerful expression. The lower *end* windows of this part of the house are hooded, or sheltered, by a cheap roof, which gives them a snug and most comfortable appearance. The veranda may appear more ornamental than the plain character of the house requires; but any superfluous work upon it may be omitted, and the style of finish conformed to the other. The veranda roof is flatter than that of the house, but it may be made perfectly tight by close shingling, and paint; while the deck or platform in the centre may be roofed with zinc, or tin, and a coat of sanded paint laid upon it. The front chimney is plain, yet in keeping with the general style of the house, and may be made of ordinary bricks. The two parts of the chimney, as they appear in the front rooms, are drawn together as they pass through the chamber above, and become one at the roof. The kitchen chimneys pass through the peaks of their respective roofs, and should be in like character with the other.

GUANO—PERUVIAN AND MEXICAN—SUPERPHOPHATE—BONE DUST.

The following remarks are so much in accordance with our own views, and contain facts expressed in so small a compass, that we transfer them to our pages. They are from a correspondent of the Delaware Statesman, and in reply to some questions, (similar ones to which are frequently put to us,) as to the comparative values of super phosphate of lime, Mexican and Peruvian Guano:

"That super phosphate, honestly manufactured, is a good manure there can be no doubt. Chemistry teaches it—experience demonstrates it. But that it should act equally well on all soils, is neither reasonable nor probable. Phosphate is an element, entering to a greater or less extent into the composition of all plants, hence there can be no vegetation without it. It is especially essential, for the formation of the kernel in grain crops and renders the straw hard and compact in texture, so that it better supports the ear or head without falling. Peruvian Guano, containing so large an amount of ammonia as it does, is a necessary and profitable manure. The stalks and the leaves of plants require a large amount of ammonia, hence it is essential for a vigorous growth. But to compare the value of the two, is like comparing the head and the heart in the human system—they are both useful—both indespensable. The continuous use of guano without any other manure will impoverish any soil—not, however, as some farmers assert, because it is poisonous to the ground, but because successive cropping draws from the soil those other necessary elements not supplied by the guano, such as lime, phosphate, &c., and the plants fail to grow for want of them. Phosphate applied continuously, unmixed with any other elements, must fail for the same reason. Every element, which analysis shows to belong to the ashes of plants, must be supplied to the soil, if it does not already exist there; or if it is not, vegetation will no more flourish, than a machine will operate well, wanting one of its most important wheels.

"Mexican Guano is rich in Phosphate—a sample, shown me by the Messrs. Pennocks of your city, contains nearly seventy per cent. of that article. It must therefore, be a valuable manure; but like bones it is not easily soluble, and therefore slow to act, unless treated with sulphuric acid, which at once renders the phosphate soluble. Still it is not nearly so insoluble as ground *bones*."

Upon this subject we would also make some extracts from a letter from *A. Bowie Davis*, Esq., of this State, just received, which, though not intended for publication, we hope the writer will excuse us for presenting to our readers, in this connexion.

"Upon the subject of guano I know of nothing new to communicate, except to add the experience and operation of several years in confirmation of the views expressed in my letter to the Hon. Mr. Cottman, (which you did me the honor to publish in the Farmer,) in favor of the superiority of the Peruvian, over all other guanos that I have seen, or received reliable accounts of. This superiority I then thought, and still think, is chiefly due to *climate*—in maintaining for any length of time the deposite which forms guano—in its original strength and purity. I know of no other part of the Globe in this respect, thus highly favored, and if this opinion be correct, Peruvian Guano must continue to hold its supremacy.

"Valuable as I consider this fertilizer—and inestimable as is the boon—to the exhausted and worn out land of the old States—yet I am unable to yield my testimony in its favor—when reliance is alone placed upon guano as a permanent improver of the soil. Extensive as has been its use in this country, I have in no single instance seen this result produced. As an adjunct in supplying vegetable matter, to the soil—and the all important pre requisite to permanent improvement, *capital*, it is invaluable. As the best evidence of my want of confidence in guano as a permanent improver of the soil, I will mention that I am now adding to my mill a few bone pounders, to reduce at *home*, the very few tons of bones I am able annually to lay my hands upon. These I shall treat with sulphuric acid, and thus reduced and compounded as you have directed in the Farmer, I consider but little inferior to guano for first crop—and far superior for the grass crop, at an equal cost—combined with guano you have the two elements of Ammonia and Phosphates, in their highest and most valuable state, for the growth of, plants. I had no idea of writing so much, only for your private eye, when I took up my pen. You have been pleased to allude to my efforts in the State Convention, for appropriations to Agriculture, and the contrast I drew to its neglect compared with other classes which had from time to time been so liberally provided for."

GUANO ON POOR LANDS.

Dr. Robert Harrison, Prince George Co., Va., promises the editor of the Southern (Petersburg) Farmer, a communication showing the reasons why guano acts better on poor land than rich—he says, that

"Acids and alkalies are necessary to the growth of vegetation; that severe and rigorous cropping more particularly exhausts the alkalies; that all rich and productive soils abound in alkalies; that poor soils are destitute of alkalies, and that the reason why guano acts more beneficially on poor land, is the existence of more acids in an uncombined condition on poor lands, that more readily combine with the guano and dissolve it, by which it may be readily appropriated by the growing crop. Also, that guano affords the organic and inorganic constituents of vegetation; and that poor lands are essentially deficient in the necessary properties of potash, soda and phosphate of lime, which guano furnishes; while, on the contrary, richer soils contain these essential ingredients, and therefore guano is not so equally beneficial."

Home Piety.—Enjoyment in religion depends on observing little home duties—or fireside piety. An occasional effort to do some great thing may ease the conscience for a while; but it is only the spirit of Christ carried into the family, and into every-day life, softening the temper; and rendering the heart affectionate, which can impart an habitual elevation and serenity of mind.

☞Fences operate in two ways—if good they are a defence; if poor, an offence.

AMERICAN FARMER.

Baltimore, July 1, 1855.

TERMS OF THE AMERICAN FARMER.

Per Annum, $1 in advance—6 copies for $5—13 copies for $10—30 copies for $20.

ADVERTISEMENTS.—For 1 square of 8 lines, for each insertion, $1—1 square per annum, $10—larger advertisements in proportion—for a page, $100 per annum; a single insertion, $15, and $12 50 for each subsequent insertion, not exceeding five. Address,

S. SANDS & WORTHINGTON,
Publishers of the "American Farmer,"
At the *State Agricultural Society's Rooms*, 128 Baltimore-st.
Over the "American Office," 5th door from North-st.

THE AMERICAN FARMER.

We have, on another page, made our opening bow to our friends and the public, and will only reiterate the promise, that, as it is our duty, so shall it be our pleasure, to make the pages of the Farmer a safe and reliable guide to all who cultivate the earth—a *guide* which the old and experienced agriculturist, may follow with the certainty that his interests will be promoted, and the *novice* pursue, with the surety of being right. In proof of the truth of the latter averment, we will state, that in the beginning of June, we paid a visit to a young friend of ours, who has lately bought a farm some thirty miles from Baltimore, who previously to entering upon it knew nothing of the principles of agriculture, and relied entirely upon the pages of our journal for his instruction, and we hazard nothing in declaring that his growing crops gave brighter prospects of good yields than any that fell under our view during our ride of thirty-one miles. It is in no spirit of egotism that we state this fact, but merely to show, that those without experience, who have no prejudices to overcome, may succeed if they only address themselves with zeal and energy to the business of farming.

Whilst writing the above we have received from an old subscriber of Cumberland Co., Va., the following testimony upon the same point. His letter is dated 15th June:

"I have just commenced my harvest, and whilst a majority of our farmers will scarcely make seed, I am reaping the best crop that I ever had. The wheat crop in this part of Va. will not come up to one-fourth an average one. I have seen many fields myself that will not be cut at all. I attribute my success to early seeding, the seeding of early wheat, and a nice thorough preparation, and I must acknowledge, that I have been prompted to adopt this course, by a careful reading of your valuable journal, and an earnest effort to adopt as far as circumstances will allow, your suggesstions and admonitions." "I have not been able to do much for you this year, but I must try and send you a list of subscribers, by the 1st of July."

Another correspondent, in Tennessee, remits for sundry subscribers, and adds:—"If I continue here your list shall be greatly increased. I am as much in love with "the Farmer" as I was when I commenced taking it. All that I am in the way of Farming you have made me. If I were a merchant I wou'd have "the Farmer." We are commencing harvest. The wheat crop is very fine. The oats crop will be short. Corn promises well."

One more extract—from a subscriber in North Carolina:—"Allow me, in conclusion, to express my high sense of the value of your labors in the cause of Agricultural improvement, and to say, that I consider the American Farmer in your hands the *very best* journal of the kind in the Union, and yourself a worthy successor of the lamented SKINNER, whose labors as Pioneer in that department, will ever be held in grateful remembrance."

We could multiply similar evidences, perhaps a thousand-fold, of the estimation in which our journal is held by its readers, but deem it unnecessary on the present occasion.

LIEUTENANT MAURY "ON SHORE."

Lieutenant Maury whose fame is in all lands, as the author of 'Wind and Current Charts' and 'Sailing directions,' makes in the last No. of the *Southern Planter* an appeal to farmers, which if they heed, he says, he is prepared "to submit a plan by which as much may be done for agriculture and the sanitary cause by meteorological co-operation and observations on the land, as has been done by them at sea for commerce and navigation."

This is a promise of great things, for we suppose it is difficult to estimate the value saved to the commerce of the country by the "Charts" and "Sailing directions," which are the result of the system of observation suggested, and directed by Mr. Maury. President Fillmore in his annual message of December 1851, says of these charts, they have shortened the passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific ports of the country by about forty days.

"The achievements on sea quietly and gradually effected by Lieutenant Maury, although not attracting the admiration of the multitude, nor dazzling the beholder with sudden flashes of triumph, have reflected honor upon himself and his country, have brought remote nations in comparative proximity to each other; have promoted commerce, by pointing out to the mariner new paths on the great deep, where favorable winds and currents lend friendly aid. His 'Wind and Current Charts,' and 'Sailing Directions,' are saving millions of money by shortening the voyages of merchant vessels freighted with treasures." The Secretary of the Treasury in his last annual report, stated that he had been officially informed, that in a paper read before the British Association last year, it was estimated in India, that "a set of wind and current charts for the Indian ocean, like those that had been constructed for the Atlantic ocean, would produce an annual saving to British commerce in those seas alone, of not less than $1,000,000, and to British commerce in all seas $10,000,000."

In the letter above alluded to, Mr. Maury says, "But this system of research with its teeming results, is confined to the sea; therefore, it may be asked by some farmers, what have we landsmen to do with it? I say in reply, that by extending it to the shore, results altogether as important to landsmen may be obtained, and that too by means equally as simple and as unexpensive.

"The germination of the seed and the growth of the plant, are but the display of a meteorological force, the expression of atmospherical laws, which when rightly understood, cannot fail to confer upon agriculture and the well being of states, benefits as signal, as the study of the movements of the same grand machine at sea, has conferred upon commerce and navigation.

"I appeal therefore to the farmers, and all who are interested in the matter on shore, to follow the example of the sailors, and put their shoulders to the wheel, and help along the undertaking. Man by nature is a meteorologist, and everybody, whether ashore or afloat, has, even if he have not the intelligence to perceive it, an interest in it.

"Should this appeal be heeded, I shall have more to say as to details."

P. S. Since the above was put in type, we have received from Lieutenant Maury a most interesting communication, detailing the plan of co-operation suggested above, and giving his views more at large upon the important subject of a uniform system of meteorological observation on land.

We regret very much that our July number was so far in course of preparation, and our pages so pre-occupied, as to make it impossible to get in the whole communication, and we could not divide it. It will not spoil by keeping however, and in August we shall have the pleasure of laying the whole subject before our readers.

OUR CORRESPONDENTS.

We are fortunate in being able to enrich the columns of our first number with the favours of our esteemed Correspondents. Those of the Ex-President of Maryland State Agricultural Society, and *Patuxent Planter*, will command universal attention. They are leaders and champions in the great movement about being made in elevating the Interests of Agriculture. There are many others of equal ability and patriotism, who we are sure will not withhold their tribute to the work.

OUR EXCHANGES.

We have many acknowledgments to make for the very friendly notices we frequently receive from our valued exchanges in our own and other States. We heartily reciprocate the generous good will shown us by our cotemporaries.

Capital for Farming.—A correspondent asks for "an estimate of the least amount of capital required to commence farming (exclusive of the purchase of the farm) in this state or the adjoining ones, for a person of limited means." We solicit an answer from some practical man, for the benefit of our correspondent, as the information will no doubt be acceptable to many others who contemplate commencing farming operations.

Machine for Cutting off Corn.—Another correspondent asks if there is any machine now in use for *cutting off corn cheaply*—and if not, that some ingenious person would render a great benefit to the farmer, by inventing something of the kind.

Feeding Stock.—Another correspondent calls upon W. B. B. of Ellendale, Va., (formerly of this city) for some practical views on crushed corn and cob for horses, neat cattle, &c., and asks if he uses the same machine described in the Farmer some years ago. Will our respected correspondent respond to this call?

The Visitors and Governors of St. John's College at Annapolis, have been engaged in the work of re-modelling their course of instruction and reconstructing their Faculty. They have re-appointed President Humphreys, for many years its accomplished and eminent Principal, and have elected as Vice Principal and Professor of Chemistry and Natural Philosophy, Dr. David Stewart, of Baltimore, the distinguished Chemist of the Md. State Agricultural Society. These appointments are a pledge to the Farmers of Maryland that the important sciences bearing upon their pursuit are to be faithfully and thoroughly taught to their sons, in the venerable Institution which it should be their pride to foster.

Cheap and neat fence.—We call attention to the advertisement on another page, in which the advertiser offers to furnish a neat and cheap kind of fencing to farmers and others—and as we are anxious to see every effort encouraged that tends to beautify their homestead, we have consented to receive orders for the advertiser.

MD. STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Managers will be held at the Hall of the Society, in Baltimore, on the *First Wednesday in August*, at 10 o'clock. As business of importance connected with the Annual Exhibition, may come before this meeting, a general attendance is desired.

By order of Jas. T. Earle, President,

July 1. SAMUEL SANDS, Sec'ry.

Office of Inspector of Guano, No. 11, Exchange Building.

Analysis of average samples of following Cargoes of

PERUVIAN GUANO

arrived since last report.

June 14, "Nelson Place," Ammonia, 16.30 per ct. marked A
" " "Gladiator," " 16.25 " " A.
" " "Alexander," " 16.18 " " A.
" " "Navigator," " 15.45 " " A.

All above Cargoes contained more or less damaged, which was separated and marked D.

MEXICAN GUANO.

	Phosphoric Acid.	Bone Phos. Lime.
June — Joseph,	20.85 pr ct.,	equal to 45.17 pr ct. mark. A.
" 18 Annawan,	30.31 "	" 65.67 " " A. A.
" " Seerless	13.79 "	" 29.67 " " C.

WM. S. REESE,

July 1. State Inspector.

MR. CALVERT'S LETTER—ORGANIZATION.

The letter of Mr. Calvert will undoubtedly attract the attention it eminently merits. We present it with pleasure to our readers, hoping that the earnest spirit it breathes, may animate every man who reads it, and that his intelligent views of policy may meet a response in the mind of every Farmer in the land.

We dissent, however, from the opinion of our respected correspondent, that "all other professions seem to combine and unite against Agriculturists." We think on reflection he will take a juster view of the matter. On the contrary, intelligent men of all professions, know and feel the importance of Agriculture. A large proportion of them have a natural taste for, and a yearning after Agricultural life, and we think there is a general disposition to forward the views of Agriculturists in all their attempts at improvement. No one is more ready than our friend to acknowledge the many obligations we owe to individuals of other pursuits, merchants, lawyers, physicians, officers of the army and navy, who have in the doings of our Agricultural Society, given us willing and valuable aid, and assisted in doing for Farmers the work which the great mass of them fail to appreciate, or lack the energy to do. In the case mentioned by him, what cheerful testimony he bears to the valued services of the orator sought out by himself and his associates, to tell to an assemblage of Farmers great truths "which they themselves did know," but which it required a Gospel Preacher to impress and enforce. But there is a more serious objection to this view of our friend, and we are sure he will take in good part any suggestion which looks honestly to the great end he has in view. We are not willing to lay to the souls of Farmers the flattering unction that any evils under which they suffer, are the effect of a combination against them, or of any thing but their own indifference.

> "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our Stars,
> But in ourselves that we are underlings."

We wish to impress upon every Farmer of the land, that all this unconcern for our interests on the part of public functionaries, all this overlooking of our affairs, all this discrimination against us is nothing but the perfectly natural result of our own carelessness and indifference. Or if we have any proper views or proper concern for our interests, because we fail to give them form and expression. Men of other pursuits look after their own affairs, and pursue their own interests with watchfulness, with eagerness, with unceasing, unflinching energy. When Farmers shall do this, when they shall realize that they have interests beyond the mere making of crops, when they determine that it is their business to look to all arrangements regulating the sale, and all questions of policy affecting the price of their products,—whenever they conclude that it is their right and their duty to direct and control all questions of State and National policy, not as partizans, but as the guardians and conservators of this great interest, then will agriculture take its natural position of dignity and importance. It will be *the power* of the State, keeping all other pursuits in their proper subordination. It will be the controlling force regulating all the machinery of Government. It will be the working machinery itself of the State, and the Government the mere index of its will. Presidents and Governors will be the trumpeters of our praise, and Legislators our obedient humble servants. And why? not because we are *four-fifths of the people*, but because four-fifths of the people having left the miserable field of party strife, the wretched contest for party ascendancy, the degrading scramble for the spoils of party victory, have returned to a true sense of duty to themselves and the country.

But is it not an anomaly, that the mere fact, that there is a class of men constituting so large a proportion of the whole, is not sufficient to command the most earnest devotion to their interest on the part of those who profess to respresent that class? It would seem so, and yet it is not. And the reason of it is that the great agricultural interest as such, has no existence. All the matter properly belonging to it is a mere conglomeration of individuals actuated each by its mere individual will, and impotent as to all which concerns his pursuit generally. The great want of agriculture is, not improved methods of culture, it is not agricultural instruction, it is not a higher appreciation of its interest, not a greater degree of intelligence pervading its masses. It is *organization*. It is the bringing together all its members *into one body* fitly framed and joined together. Such an organization is the very condition of life, and the necessary medium through which to combine, to concentrate, to give form and expression, to the intelligence, the spirit, the energy which belongs to all the members which may compose it. Every one understands this when properly presented to him. Those wise "children of this world," the politicians, understand it. Their first note of preparation for an engagement is, *Organize!* In a contest where numbers would seem to be every thing, organization is the first necessity of their existence, and their *sine qua non*. What is an army with its elements scattered throughout the land? It loses its name and nature. All its valor is mere cowardice, its strength weakness, its military skill worthless, its force and power of no avail. But bring these scattered elements again into combination, make a body of them, concentrate the strength, the courage, the skill, and you have a force which shall be irresistible in exact proportion to the perfection of the organization. And this is the secret of those who in the legislation of the country operate against the interests of the

Farmer. They *combine*, not against him, but for themselves. They do not love Rome less, but Cæsar more, and this affection urges them to the rigorous use of all appliances and means, and all their means, and energy, and strength are economised and concentrated, and made available in a combination, which the fewness of their numbers facilitates and makes perfect. The discrimination against their interests, of which Farmers complain, is no discrimination ; it does not deserve so dignified a description. It is the mere sentence of the unjust Judge, who would not be longer troubled by the pertinacious clamor of the few who demanded a tribute to their avarice. "Though I fear not God, nor regard man, yet because this widow *troubleth me*, I will avenge her, lest *by her continual coming, she weary me.*"

Will not agriculturists then learn the lesson? Will they not understand that the interests of others are fostered, because they attend to them, and that their own are neglected because they themselves neglect them? Will they not understand that as a distinct interest they are nothing, and can do nothing until they come together into one body, to be actuated by one spirit? And that when they shall have formed a body, and an *esprit de corps* shall animate it, they will constitute a power in the State, whose least movement could not be resisted.

That it will be a power thoroughly patriotic and conservative no one will question. It will seek the greatest good of the greatest number, because it is itself the greatest number. It will watch for and care for all the great interests of the country, because they are its own interests. It will foster manufactures as the readiest consumer of its raw material, and of its flour and pork and beef and vegetables. It will cherish commerce as its handmaid in distributing and exchanging its surplus products, and, it will best sustain all other professions and pursuits, by prudently and wisely pursuing its own interests.

And how is this organization of which we speak to be effected? By forming societies in every county, with auxiliary clubs in every neighborhood. By having every club represented in the County Society, every County Society in the State Society, and every State Society in the National Society. The whole forming a grand organization which will absorb and combine all the now scattered elements, and the head of which, the great National Society, instead of a mere collection of self-selected amateur Farmers, shall truly represent the whole agricultural sentiment of the country.

COTTAGE RESIDENCE.—The plan and description of a Cottage Residence, which we publish in this number, is copied from Allen's Rural Architecture, a work of much utility, published by *Saxton and Co.* of New York, to whom we are indebted for the engraving. The cost is estimated at about $2,000.

WASTE AND WANT.—ECONOMY OF FEEDING.

The letter of our intelligent young friend J. R. G., we commend to the notice of other young friends, as showing a good example of thoughtfulness, careful attention and useful experiment.—We had intended, somewhat later in the season, to call attention to the subject of Hog feeding ; but the communication of our correspondent gives a valuable suggestion as to a crop which it is yet time enough to make available, and we take the occasion of publishing it, to present to our readers a few practical suggestions on our general method of feeding.

Much is said of the *wants* of agriculture, their remedy should be sought in more attention to its *wastes*. We *want* in Maryland a great Agricultural College and model Farm, and ways and means are eagerly sought for its establishment. We *waste* in Maryland annually in a single item of farm economy—we *throw away* in our hog pens every year, between the 1st November and 15th December, money enough to endow two such institutions.

By the last census there were in the State three hundred and fifty-three thousand hogs. Assuming that to be the number now, and that one-half of them are to be kept over for stock hogs, there will be put into the pens for fattening say one hundred and seventy-six thousand. A barrel of corn or five bushels is the usual estimate for fattening. We think that those of our readers who have given attention to the matter will agree with us that a barrel and a half or seven and a half bushels is nearer the mark. Put it at six bushels to the hog, and at 70 cents a bushel, and we have a consumption in money worth $739,200.

In a matter of so much cash value, where a man cannot feed his pen of twenty hogs at less than a cost of two dollars per day, and that repeated day after day for forty days, we should suppose it would be done with quite as much care and caution as he would deal out the money from his pocket for sugar and coffee and other necessaries for his family. In the first place he would have his hog so completely housed and bedded that in the worst weather he would have no occasion to grunt or squeal. He would have his feeding troughs so arranged that nothing could be thrown out or wasted under foot. He would have his food given to him in such a state of preparation that no particle of it could pass through him undigested. Lastly, his food would be dealt out to him so moderately and judiciously as never to stint and never to glut him.

Now what is the real state of the matter? What is the practice of nineteen-twentieths of the Farmers of the State where, in this time of extraordinary prosperity, we can't begin to raise the necessary funds for the endowment of such an institution as we have mentioned? In the first place a pen of logs is built for the purpose of confining the hog for feeding. In this he is secured without shelter,

and on the naked ground. A rain comes, and his whole floor is very soon kneaded and worked into a mass of mud. This is to be his bed, and here he is to shake and shiver in autumn blast and winter wind, unless he can comfort himself in some method unknown to his master. But he has crumbs of comfort that his master wots not of. He is furnished with a furnace, and knows very well how to use it, if you give him fuel. This fuel, real, genuine coal (the Chemists call it *carbon*,) much more costly than that which we are paying seven dollars a ton for, is supplied him in his corn—and every breath he draws is the action of a pair of bellows to fan his fire. So that you needn't trouble yourself about his suffering seriously from cold, so long as you give him corn enough; but remember that every particle of carbon that he consumes for fuel, would form flesh and fat, if by giving him shelter and a comfortable bed, you would do away the necessity for the use of fuel.

As to the manner in which his food is served to him—of course there are good, substantial, well arranged troughs into which it is carefully put. Is it so? Or is it not rather strewed around upon the muddy ground? (Your judicious hog-feeder drives the hogs out of the holes they have rooted for beds and which have been dried by the animal heat, and throws the corn into them.) Here all that is not consumed at once, (and you think it necessary to keep it lying by him,) is trampled and rooted and worked into the mud—destroyed and wasted.

In the dispensing of his food, we may look with more confidence perhaps to a philosophical practice. The man who has occasion himself to eat three times a day, has learned by his own experience with a very moderate degree of reflection, that regularity in the times of eating, moderation and regularity in quantity of food, and sufficient time for thorough mastication and mixing with the secretion of the glands, are points of some importance to his comfort and health. He knows that he cannot with impunity take upon a fasting stomach, a full meal of food difficult of digestion.—Much less can he, without danger of destruction to health, or life perhaps, change his whole course of life, from one of active exercise and diet, poor in quality and quantity, and of easy digestion, to a sedentary life, and a diet rich and stimulating in quality, excessive in quantity, and very difficult of digestion. Of course then, he has settled principles which he applies to the feeding of his hogs, with a view to the most economical application of the food he gives them. Let us look at his practice. For months before the hog is confined to his fattening pen, he has the range of field and woods. Here he is actively exercised working for his living. "Root hog or die," is a familiar saying and very expressive of hog experience in many cases. Where he is best treated, his food is green grass, fresh roots, and a few acorns and chesnuts perhaps—during this time, a ear of corn is a precious morsel which if thrown to him, he hesitates about as if he doubted the evidence of his eyes, or runs away from, suspecting that you are playing him a trick. Suddenly his whole mode of life is changed. He is put into a pen and denied the privilege of exercise. Corn, a rich and stimulating food is thrown to him in superabundance. With empty, hungry belly, and justified by his past experience in the belief that such a mess is not to be vouchsafed him again, he and his comrades in eager competition raven it up. Day after day the process is repeated, and expecting each to be the last, he greeds and devours, until glutted and gorged, his appetite is gone, and Mr. Hog is laid up with an attack of dyspepsy. Every body knows that in about a week after putting up a pen of hogs, their appetite fails, and for some days they use the natural remedy of abstinence.—One farmer thinks it desirable to get them to this point, for then he says they eat so little corn! Others think the corn has made their teeth sore! Teeth which will crack walnuts, beef bones, and brick bats, he thinks are made sore by corn scarcely dried on the stalk, because he *won't* believe, that a hog without exercise can fail to digest an excessive quantity of half-masticated corn.

No one can say with certainty what the waste is, from all these items of faulty practice, but we appeal to the judgment of every intelligent man familiar with the subject. Estimate the excess of food, rendered necessary by his wet bed on the cold ground, and exposure to changes of weather at an inclement season of the year. Add to this the waste of corn thrown upon muddy ground, always in excessive quantity to be trampled at first by twenty or thirty hogs, and then leisurely rooted and mixed in. Take the violent change from simple digestible food taken in moderation under active exercise, to rich, indigestible, stimulating food, taken in excess, greedily swallowed and without exercise, and say if you can safely put the whole waste at less than one-third of the whole consumption. As we wish to be moderate in our estimate, make it one-sixth, and we have a waste thus far in our calculation, of One Hundred and Twenty-five Thousand Dollars, or the whole sum required for the Agricultural College, with twenty-five per cent. surplus, and yet the tale is not half told.

As to the preparation of food, making it thoroughly digestible, &c., we are not left to conjecture or the exercise of our fallible judgments.—There are facts on record, experiments accurately made by men of the highest character for intelligence, reliability and public spirit, which make for us a surer guide. These experiments are given on the authority of Mr. Henry Colman, the distinguished Agricultural Commissioner of Massachusetts, and Mr. Henry L. Ellsworth, for many years Commissioner of Patents. In all the trials

made, the hogs were weighed at the beginning, at intervals during the process, and the end of feeding, and the food carefully weighed throughout. They establish the fact that *a bushel of corn well ground and boiled will make as much pork as two bushels unground and not boiled.* On this point it is needless to enlarge.

Assuming the whole value of corn used in feeding to be as above stated, $739,200, and abating this one-sixth for waste according to our calculation, it will leave for the amount actually consumed $616,000. Take one-half for difference between hard corn, and corn ground and boiled, $308,000—add to this the one-sixth as above, and we have a loss in the whole of $430,000. Now lessen this by the whole cost of necessary fixtures for a better practice, and increased expense of labor, with a further abatement for the better management of a portion of the Farmers of the State, and we show still a large margin beyond the proof of the proposition with which we started.

Think of it. The sum of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars annually,—equal to a capital of Five Millions, thrown away in one item of waste upon our Farms. All the necessary means twice told, for the establishment of a noble Institution of learning for the improvement of our Agriculture, and the elevation of our Agricultural character, *yearly* thrown away in the filth and garbage of Maryland hog pens! and this waste pervading our whole farm economy. In our stock hogs we have a value, a consumption and a corresponding waste equal to that of our pen hogs. The feeding of our horses, cattle, our sheep, the washing and wasting of manure heaps, the skinning and impoverishing of our soil by scratching a few inches of the surface, and leaving it to wash and gulley, and bestowing upon a bushel of grain made upon poor land, the same labor that on a better soil would make two. Thus we neglect, we waste, we destroy, and then despising our noble inheritance, in this goodly old State of Maryland, the very paradise of the earth, but for the sins of her sons, we sell it like hungry Esau, for a mess of pottage, and with a haste that won't be hindered by the tardy "wings of the wind," we ply to the utmost all the powers of steam—at risk of limb and life, through privations, diseases, dangers, deaths,—to Minnesota, to Kansas, to California, in eager search for the wealth, which here, in our happy homes, in our pleasant fields, lies all neglected around us, because having eyes we see not. "The eyes of the fool are in the ends of the earth." Surely Solomon prophesied of us when he said it, and "this day is this scripture fulfilled."

To Cure Garget in Cows.—A correspondent of the Ohio Farmer, gives the following as a cure for garget:—"Take raw linseed oil and rub all over the cow's bag, which if done on the first appearance, is all that is needed generally, but two or three applications always have cured the most stubborn cases, and is easily done.

AN EXPERIMENTAL FARM AND AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL IN MICHIGAN.

The last Legislature of Michigan passed an act establishing an Experimental Farm and State Agricultural School, and appropriated "twenty-two sections of salt spring lands, or the money arising from the sale thereof, for the purchase of the farm and the erection of the necessary buildings, the purchase of furniture, apparatus, library and implements, payment of professors, teachers, and such other necessary expenses to be incurred in the establishment and successful operation of said school." The farm and school is placed under the management of the President and Executive Committee of the Michigan State Agricultural Society, who were to have held a meeting on the 12th ult., for the purpose of selecting a tract of land for the object set forth in the act of assembly. The farm is to compose not less than 500 acres, and not more than 1000—the chief purpose and design of the institution shall be, in the language of the act before us, "to improve and teach the science and practice of agriculture." The sum of $5,000 is also appropriated from the State Treasury, "for the payment of the salaries of the professors and teachers for one year after said college shall go into operation; and for the next year not exceeding the sum of $6,000; and for any years thereafter, such a sum as the State Board of Education may deem necessary for the successful operation of the institution." The tuition is to be *forever free* to pupils from the State; but in case a greater number of pupils shall apply than can be accommodated, then some equitable plan shall be adopted, giving to each county a number according to the ratio of population.

The provisions of the act are of the most liberal character, evincing a determination of this young and vigorous State, to mete out to the *great* interest of the country, something like *justice* in the distribution of its revenues.

Change of Papers.—We would particularly urge upon those who may change their residence, or the direction of their paper, to give us the name of the office where they are *now sent*, as well as that to which they wish them forwarded, which will save a vast amount of labor to us, and frequently prevent errors in crediting receipts. Letters are most frequently dated with the name of the farm, and the post office mark on the envelope is often so indistinct, as to prevent its being decyphered—hence we have no clue to find the residence of the party remitting. It should be remembered by subscribers that publishers keep their books by a division of States, Counties, and Towns, or Post Offices; and not by an alphabetical list of names, like those on a merchant's ledger.

To Clear Coffee.—When nothing else can be obtained, mix a little corn meal with the coffee before putting it to boil.

MODEL AND EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

From a report of Mr. Bruce, President of the N. Carolina and Va. Union Society, at Petersburg, Va., we learn that the sum of $18,355 has been subscribed for the purchase of the farm of this society, and a farm of 102 acres has been purchased near Petersburg, at an average cost of $85 per acre, and is now in successful operation, under the charge of Mr. Andrew Nicol, and it is believed that under his excellent management, after the first year, the farm will pay the manager's salary and all its current expenses. Tasty and appropriate buildings are being erected, and the farm is enclosed with a neat, substantial and durable fence. This society is truly in earnest in their work, and the President bears the following testimony to the zeal of his colleagues:

"The Executive Committee have determined that it would give no salary to the Secretary or Treasurer. There is no difficulty in procuring the services of zealous and faithful men to fill these stations—men who are thankful for the honor of being useful. They are unwilling to degrade a post of honor into an office of profit. All of the usual appointments of the Society should be honorary appointments, and all of its labors labors of love. Such labors are eminently characteristic of the members of your Executive Committee. I doubt whether an equal number of men can be found within the broad limits of North Carolina or Virginia who perform so large an amount of unpaid service as they do. Most of them are tillers of the ground, whose skill and industry force from the reluctant earth an abundant yield of its fruits. Their hands witness a practical devotion to the plough, while the pages of the *Farmer* testify to their intimate acquaintance with the theory of a scientific agriculture. They are zealous men, proud of their calling, and, without an exception, they are guiltless of politics. Under such guidance, our Society is bound to fulfil all the just expectations of its members and the public."

THE CHILIAN GUANO FRAUD.

We copy with much pleasure the following remarks from the Southern Farmer, as an act of justice to the respectable house in Petersburg, whose names were introduced into the article upon this subject, published in the last number of the American Farmer:

"In copying the article on the manufacture of Chilian guano from the *Country Gentleman*, which will be found in another column, it may not be improper to make a few remarks, as the names of the editors of this paper are introduced in it, as is that also of one of the most respectable and honorable mercantile houses of this city. When Messrs. ROWLETT & HARDY were told that the Chilian guano was a fradulent article, no men could have been more astonished and, indeed, incredulous than they were. They stated they had received it from a house in Boston which had been highly recommended to them by a gentleman in whom they had full confidence, and that it was accompanied by the analyses of eminent chemists. They, however, immediately declined selling it to their customers as a genuine article, though not without some doubts as to the correctness of the opinion we had pronounced upon it. It will be seen, now, that our opinion has been abundantly confirmed, and that the Chilian guano, instead of being a natural deposit, is neither more nor less than a fraudulent compound, manufactured somewhere in the vicinity of New York, and composed of ingredients of very little value. By the admixture of a small quantity of Peruvian guano and the addition of some water, the action of the corbonate of lime or chalk tends to expel the ammonia, and consequently a very pungent odor is emitted, very well calculated to deceive the inexperienced. The presence of lime may be readily detected by any person who will take the trouble to pour a little acid upon it, for an active effervescence immediately takes place, which is not the case with Peruvian guano even when the most powerful acids are applied. As a further proof of the worthlessness of this Chilian guano, we understand from the Superintendent of the Model Farm that not the slightest effect is observable on the oats to which it was applied, even in large quantities, while the action of Peruvian guano and DE BURG's superphosphate of lime is very striking."

In copying the remarks of the Southern Farmer, in connexion with this subject, it is proper also to state, that no allusion was intended to be made in the expression of Messrs. Rowlett & Hardy, in regard to New York dealers in Peruvian guano, which would convey the impression that there was any want of confidence in the agent of Messrs. Barreda, in that city, *J. J. Barrill*, Esq. formerly of this city. The guano purchased of him, may be relied on in every respect as equal to that from Messrs. Barreda. The remark was intended to have reference only to jobbers there.

LIME AND GUANO—HOW USED FOR WHEAT.

The following is a copy of a reply which we had occasion recently to furnish a correspondent in the Western section of our State, and the views presented may be equally applicable and useful in other quarters:

1. It is best to spread the lime you have now in the heaps at once, in order that by exposing a greater surface to the atmosphere the process of reabsorbing carbonic acid gas from the air may go on with the greater rapidity.

2. I think 25 bushels enough for a first application of lime, and that it is better to apply it in that quantity at the commencement of each rotation, until you shall have applied 100 bushels per acre, than to apply that quantity at once.

3. Instead of ploughing in your wheat, I think it better that you should *harrow*, and *cross*-harrow it in, and complete your seeding by making water furrows, and rolling across them.

4. Guano and lime are antagonistic to each other; the lime will drive off all the already formed ammonia, encourage the formation of that now in a compound form, and drive off that also. Caustic lime never should be applied at the same time where guano, or any other highly concentrated animal manure is applied; for so sure as it is, the nitrogenous portions of such manure will be driven off, rendered non-effective, leaving nothing but the phosphates behind to benefit the land and crop that may grow on it. If you doubt the truth of these

views, you can test them by simply mixing a tablespoonful of quick lime with a small quantity of guano, stirring them well together, and letting them remain a day or two, when by applying your nose to the guano, you will find there is none of that ammoniacal smell remaining, having been driven off by its contact with the quick lime into the air.

5. If you apply guano to the poor part of your fields, don't apply lime, unless it has been slaked a year or so. Slaked ashes may be applied on soil manured with guano, because it has lost its power to do harm by disturbing the nitrogenous compounds, or interfering with the already formed ammonia; but any application of recently slaked—hydrate of lime—with guano, will defeat your object, as so sure as two and two make four; the ammonia and its compounds will be given to the air, instead of to your crop. *Plaster* may advantageously be used with guano, it will give the ammonia in it fixidity, retain it for the benefit of the crop, instead of destroying its efficacy as in the case of quick lime.

6. The failure of the crop of corn on the fields upon which you sowed 50 bushels of lime per acre, we apprehend arose from the unprecedented long drought; the success of your present crop of Mediterranean wheat, in part, I think is ascribable to the action of lime on the inert vegetable and animal remains which it found in the soil, and which it caused to decompose, and thus prepared it to feed your growing crop of wheat. Experience, justified by close observation, teaches us that the benefit of lime is not apparent the first season—the reason is obvious, it had not had time to act upon and predispose the inert remains in the soil to become the food of plants.

It is a mistaken notion that lime will, *alone*, improve any soil; though it should form the basis of every plan to improve worn-out lands—though in this aspect it is all important; unless there be large quantities of organic and inorganic remains in the soil, its benefits when applied alone, will not be visible. It must be assisted by organic manures, applied the year after the application of the lime; that time being necessary to allow it to reabsorb the carbonic acid driven off in the process of burning, and to become a carbonate.

7. You may with safety apply guano to the field now in wheat, that was limed in 1854. It is not considered good practice in theory, to grow the same crop two successive years on the same field, but I believe it may be done for any reasonable number of years, provided you each year apply such manure as will furnish all the elements that enter into the constitution of the plant grown—and guano just happens to be that manure; it contains all the elements, in a form too, ready for the plants to take up as food—it is a little deficient in *potash*, but that can be furnished by the application of a few bushels of ashes per acre, or 50 lbs. of saltpetre, per acre.

We will mention a very strong case in corroboration of the belief we have expressed. Mr. Whann, formerly Post Master at Elkton, in this State, owns a 10 acre lot adjoining that village, which he cultivated in *wheat* for seven successive years, manuring each year with stable manure, ploughing it in deep, thoroughly harrowing and rolling, and every second year top-dressing with ashes. The result of this experiment was that the average product for the seven years, was within a fraction of forty bushels to the acre, some years falling below forty, and others above it, the difference being referrible to the seasons, and those casualties incident to the wheat crop.

We have no recollection of guano being sown on stubble, but there is no possible reason why it should not succed as well there as anywhere else. With every 100 lbs. of guano mix 25 lbs. of plaster. Or you may if you please apply your guano alone, plough it in deeply, and top-dress with 1 bushel of plaster per acre, or 1 bushel of plaster and 2 bushels of salt per acre, to be harrowed in with the wheat. As your locality is so far removed from the ocean and salt-water rivers, I feel very confident that the salt will exert a very salutory effect.

To the Editors of the American Farmer.

If you think the enclosed of sufficient general interest for publication, I will endeavor to write a brief paragraph illustrating each of these several propositions from time to time. I wrote a paper on the subject a year since, and suppressed it, in view of the discussion about sorrel in your paper. While some excitement exists upon this subject, it may still possess interest, because it has cost much of the time and ingenuity of the veterans who have occupied the field of scientific agriculture. Yours, respectfully,

DAVID STEUART, M. D.

FRIDAY, 15th June, 1855.

CARBON.

SEVERAL PROPOSITIONS WITH REGARD TO ITS ASSIMILATION.

1st.—The elements and temperature of the air, as well as the soil, are sources of fertility.

2nd.—The absence of any one of these elements of fertility, is equal to the absence of all, or their deficiency.

3rd.—The *deficiency* of one element, or its partial supply, may be compensated for by tillage.

4th.—Tillage, or the mechanical conditions produced by husbandry, cannot be dispensed with under the most favorable circumstances, any more than manipulation can be dispensed with in the use of coal, which is now regarded as the substitute for the muscular strength of both man and the lower animals.

5th.—Animal products are subject to the same defects in development under the circumstances that develope inferior vegetable organisms.

6th.—Inorganic compounds of an inferior order are produced under analogous circumstances, or the deficiency (or absence of the *relative* proportion of an element—for instance oxygen.)

7th.—Oxaluria, or the oxalic acid diathesis in man, and the development of the oxalis in soil, are both most frequently the result either of an increase of nascent carbon, or a relative deficiency of oxygen; and it is by the same law that the lamp smokes, or deposites its carbon, and the fire produces a blue flame, carbonic oxide;—that other hydrocarbon compounds produce carbonous, or oxalic acid, when imperfectly oxidised.

It is an old saying—"cut down the oak, and the pine will spring up." How it is possible that the young plant,—and even the embryo—can anticipate its wants, and recognise the supply, we cannot divine, any more than we can tell why oil of vitrol will carbonise a stick of wood in order to supply its appetite for water; the elements of which existed previously *as wood*; unless the appetite was for hydrogen, and the product (water) was merely a consequence, and not *the* cause of the destruction of the wood. But if these seven

propositions are established, we can understand how it is possible for sorrel to gow in a lime-stone soil, luxuriate on the walls of a marl pit, and spontaneously take possession of the soil produced by the decay of an old log:—at the same time, *the circumstances* under which lime is a remedy for sorrell, are easily comprehended by the intelligent agriculturist, as the opposite modes of curing the smoking lamp.

DAVID STEUART, M. D.,
Chemist of Md. State Ag. Society.

JUNE 1855.

THE MD. HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL EXHIBITION.

Took place at the Hall of the Maryland Institute. about the middle of June; the display was very fine, and gave great satisfaction. The following is the list of premiums awarded on the occasion.

Floral Department—For the best display of Pelargoniums, John Feast; for the second, Henry Gephart, gardener to Mr. Harrison; for the third, James Pentland, and a discretionary premium to O. Kemp.

The best Fuschias, John Feast; second, Samuel Feast & Sons; best display, James Clarke, gardener to W. S. Whiteley.

Calceolarias—The best, to J. Staudemeyer, gardener to George Brown; second, to A. Englehardt, gardener to A. C. Pracht.

Orchids—The best to John Feast.

Peoneas—The best to Edward Foulke, second to J. Pentland.

Roses—The best 24 blooms, to A. Englehardt; second to J. Pentland, and third to Robert G. Holliday. Best 12 blooms to Mr. Lamping. Best display of cut flowers to N. Popplein. For the best seedling roses, a discretionary prize to J. Pentland; and to the same for the best display of roses in pots.

Verbenas—The best to J. Pentland; second to A. Englehardt. A discretionary premium to the same party for the best Pansies, and a first premiun for Petunias; the best seedling Petunia to J. Staudemeyer.

Green House Plants—The best 24, to John Feast; best 12 in pots to the same.

Boquet for the hand—Best to Samuel Feast & Sons; second to John Feast, and third to George Meyer, gardner to Z. Waters.

Design for Table—Best to J. Pentland; second to S. Feast & Sons, and third to Edward Foulke. The best and most appropriate design for decorating a room to A. Englehardt, and second to the same.

Best basket of Flowers—Discretionary premiums to S. Feast & Sons, Miss Baker and Miss Lizzie Feast. Discretionary premiums were also awarded to Miss Lizzie Feast for a flower wreath, and to Miss L. Graves for cloth of gold roses and flower basket.

Pomological Department—Strawberries, best quart of any variety to A. C. Pracht; second to S. Feast & Sons; best display to A. C. Pracht.

Cherries—Best display to S. Feast & Sons; a discretionary premium to Mr. Mohler.

Gooseberries—The best to Mr. Bayley; second to Mr. Berger.

Horticultural Department—For the best beets, Wm. M. Lusby; second, D. K. Lusby. Carrots—E. Whittemore & Bro. Early York Cabbage—Best, D. K. Lusby; second, E. Whittemore & Bro.; third, John Register; best display of vegetables, E. Whittemore & Bro.; second, D. K. Lusby; third, John Register.

Radishes—Best, John Register; second, D. K Lusby; greatest variety, D. K. Lusby; second, Wm. M. Lusby.

Lettuce—For best to Wm. M. Lusby; second to E. Whittemore & Bro.

Discretionary premiums were awarded to the following persons—To Wm. M. Lusby, for turnips; to J. Staudemeyer, for cauliflowers, cucumbers, and a fine display of vegetables; and to Henry Lessig, gardener to Mr. Gamble, for peas.

We learn that for the fall exhibition there will be several more contributors, when it is determined by the society to make a better show than has yet taken place.

THE CULTURE OF STRAWBERRIES.

The New York Horticultural Society, at a recent conversational meeting, arrived at the following conclusions in regard to the best method of cultivating strawberries:—

"The best soil for the strawberry was stated to be a gravelly loam. The land should be well drained, and to every acre applied twenty bushels of unleached ashes, ten bushels of lime, and two or three pounds of salt. The ground should be well broken up; animal manures should be eschewed; leaf is the best, and this should be carefully spaded in. About the first of July is the best time to set out the plants. In doing this, pains should be taken to have them firmly rooted. The roots should be eighteen inches apart, and the plants a foot apart.

Sometimes it will be well to allow greater interval, in which case the interstices can be filled up from the growth of the runners. After setting out the plants, throw on a covering of tan bark an inch or an inch and a half in depth, then water them plentifully, and the moisture will be retained a long time. After cold weather comes on, cover the strawberry beds and the walks with clean straw, throwing over a little brush, or something to keep the straw in its place. In the Spring remove the straw and make use of some fertilizing agent to give the plants vigor, as sulphate of soda, sulphate of ammonia, or nitrate of potash. Keep the roots out, see that the plants are bountifully watered, and let nothing intervene to disturb or retard their growth till you gather the fruit. The beds should be made over as often as every three years."

CHANDLER'S LIQUID MANURE DRILL.—Mr. Wm. A. Harris, of Newton, Mass., has imported a machine of this kind, which has received various prizes in England. The Boston Cultivator presents the following as the advantages of this drill:

"Water or liquid manure, may be dropped with seed in such quantities as to insure germination, even in a dry soil. It sends a constant stream,—which, however, is readily graduated as to quantity,—to every seed tube, and the seed and the liquid at last reach the earth at the same instant, through the same channel. It is an ingenious, and at the same time, simple machine, apparently not liable to get out of order. Mr. Harris' is calculated for turnips, carrots, beets, &c., but with a slight modification would answer for wheat or other grain. It is adapted to horse-power."

COL. WARE'S COTSWOLD SHEEP.

We copy the following from the Albany Cultivator of the characteristics of this breed of Sheep, so well known to the visitors of our annual Exhibitions:

Having heard much of the celebrated flock of Improved Cotswold Sheep from Col. WARE, of Clarke Co., Va., we asked him for some account them. In connection with his answer which we publish below, he sent us some beautiful specimens of wool, and a printed circular, from which we learn that he has added to his flock for six or eight years past, by annual importations of the best to be procured in England, obtaining in several instances, animals which had received the first prizes at the exhibitions of the Royal Agricul. Society

LUTHER TUCHER, Esq:—In compliance with your request, I send you this notice of my sheep; I had a flock of good sheep, but found, beside the fleece, each sheep at four years old on grass, would not command more than $2.50—the best, fed on grain in the winter, would not bring over $4.00. To supply a butcher each year a lot of fat sheep of a farmer's own raising, would require him to keep 4 lots on hand to sell one, the fleece but little more than paying for the keep. To rely upon a fleece *alone* for profit was too insignificant a matter. At the highest price per lb. given in the U. S., it would require many sheep to make a small amount of money. Not being satisfied with this state of things, I determined to purchase some of the large mutton sheep of England, the improved Cotswold, and try what could be done with them; and as independent of the pride, I believe it the true policy to have the best as it soonest returns the outlay, I imported, I do import each year winners of the highest prizes of the Royal Agricultural Society of England. If they beat England, I must surely have the purest bred and best.

I soon found, after putting 3 crosses of my Imported bucks on my ordinary flock, that the fleece greatly increased in weight, and sold for as much per lb. as the fleece of the ordinary sheep, and I sold the mutton from these crosses (not thorough bred) without difficulty, the fall after one year old for $10 each on the farm, so that I sell out clean every year, keeping none over the winter, but the breeding ewes and the lambs of the same spring.

You will see from my circular sent you by remarks of others about my sheep, that I have sold some muttons for $35 and $25 each, and you will see from the number of lbs. of washed wool to the fleece, that we make more money to the fleece than any other breed. I send you samples of wool—the longest is from a fleece of 18¾ pounds—the next 17½—the next 16—the next 14, the growth being from the shearing of 1853 to that of 1854. All is not so long. I have had it longer. I always wash my sheep before shearing, but admit that the flock from raising lambs and losing some wool, average only 6 pounds washed.* We never sell under 30 cts. per pound and sometimes get 40, and you will see we still make as much money or more to the fleece than any other breed. Selling out clean every year enables us to keep all our sheep of the most profitable sex—ewes that bring us lambs every year (and being prolific) mostly bring twins and wool too. We are never overstocked. The butcher is always ready for the overplus.

I consider the improved Cotswold the most profitable sheep for general farming purposes (wool and mutton) for while I formerly sold *one* mutton 4 years old for $2.50 on grass, and $4.00 on grain in the winter, in the same time, besides getting more money for fleece, I sell 4 of this breed for $40; and that profit is in that proportion, allowing that each bring the same number of lambs,* for I never sell one of them the fall after 1 year old for less than $10 each, part bred at that—butchers have offered $6 and $8 each for some *lambs* and been refused. The thorough bred are too much in demand, and too costly to alter.

Seeing these results, naturally the farmers in this section have occasionally procured of me, rams, and improved their flock, until this little county of Clarke that I live in, has now a reputation for mutton, probably unequalled by any *State* in the Union. Is it not the true policy of the farmer to keep that breed which will produce the greatest amount of money from the smallest number? It is not unusual in this county, for a flock of from 40 to 50 ewes, part bred, to yield in mutton and wool each year, from $500 to $650.

I know it is a theory with some that these large sheep require more food to sustain them than the small breed. Some say double. My experience is the reverse. I cannot, nor can any person else, form any correct idea of the fact on grass, but nearly correct conclusions can be arrived at when you feed them on grain for the butcher. In this way I have tested it. I have, beginning at the same time, fed a lot of ordinary sheep 4 years old, the pick of 700 good ones, and a lot of yearling Cotswolds, the same number in adjoining fields, the most indifferent field to the Cotswold—the same amount fed at the same time to each lot. The former always eat up clean, and wanted more; the latter always left some, and were sold January 1st, rolling fat for $10 each, the former not until some time in March; then with difficulty and grumbling by the butchers for $4 each, having the advantage of the others also in age. I have come to the conclusion that at least 2 (I believe 3) Cotswold, *even yearlings*, can be fattened well for the butcher on the grain it takes to fatten one of the others of any age. The Cotswolds have great propensity to take on fat, are always mutton. Indeed you cannot lay the fat on any other, as you can on them. It is their nature. All others travel a great deal and ramble off their food. The Cotswolds are heavy, sluggish sheep, fill themselves and lay down and ruminate like cattle, and thus convert their food into fat, instead of rambling it off, and it is to this sluggish quality, I ascribe the fact that I have never lost a thoro' bred by dogs: they do not jump up and run when any thing comes into the field, thus tempting dogs to the chase. They are large sheep; have been brought in England, by full treatment at 3 years old, thorough bred, to *nett* for the butcher *over* 300 *lbs.* Can any other breed of sheep give from $2 to $5 in fleece in the spring he is 1 year old, and in the fall of the same year without fail, $10 as a mutton, and draw butchers hundreds of miles to get them at that, as they do here every year? can *cattle* do so? and they have no fleece. Can they give $10 even the fall after they are one year old? and they consume infinitely more per head. Then what animal can be so profitable to the farmer as the Cotswold sheep for general farming purposes, returning its outlay with such certainty, so speedy and unceasingly.

JOSIAH WM. WARE,
Near Berryville, Clarke Co. Va.

* i. e. mixed, part and thorough bred—the whole flock—thorough breds alone do better.

* "11 ewes brought 28 living lambs—5 of the 11 brought 10 lambs—one of the 5 brought 4—the other 4 brought 3 lambs each."—*From a Report to Md. State Ag. Society, May* 1854.

WORK IN THE GARDEN.

JULY.

July, the second month of summer, is upon us, and it therefore, behooves every one, who desires to secure a full supply of vegetables for use during the next winter and spring, to bestir himself, in the preparation of his garden plots, and in seeding, and planting out, whatever is necessary to complete the stocking of them, as delay, even for a few days, may disarrange all his plans, however well conceived they may have been, if such delay does not prove fatal.

No owner of a country homestead, should omit any attention or labor essential to secure a well filled garden, upon the score of expense, as he may rest assured, that every dollar thus laid out, is returned to him with more than compound interest, whether regard be had to profit in dollars and cents, or to those more valuable considerations to be found in the reflection, that his table is bounteously supplied with vegetables, so necessary alike to the comfort and health of his family and dependents, and which add so much to the appearance of the table.

But there is another consideration which planters and farmers should look to and appreciate. We allude to the influence which his good example may have upon his neighbors, by stimulating them to follow in his footsteps.

As a preliminary to successful gardening—to large products—a plentiful supply of proper manures should be obtained and judiciously applied to the several crops; for, without manure no garden will produce well.

In conclusion, permit us, in a spirit of deference, to conjure all, to delay nothing—to postpone nothing from one day to another, but to attend to everything in the right time, and with this injunction we will proceed to point out some of the things that should be attended to this month.

PREPARATION OF CABBAGE BEDS.

Manure the plots that you have allotted for cabbages with a liberal hand, spade them up a full spade deep, and pulverize the soil thoroughly and well. In spading, the spadesman as he turns over each spadeful of earth, should strike it with the back of his spade, so as to break the lumps and render the pulverization the more easy when the ground comes to be raked. In raking, the spademan should be careful not to let the ground be spaded up more than 3 feet ahead before he applies the rake, as it is essential to nice pulverization, that the ground to be raked, should be convenient to, and near enough to the rake, to let his arms have full play. And while raking, he should consider himself bound by duty, not to lay down his rake until the soil is perfectly fine.

Setting out plants.—After the beds are prepared, avail yourself of the first rain to have your plants set out; and be sure, whatever other sorts you may plant out, to have a full supply of *Savoys*, as there can be no question, that this variety is the richest and most luscious of the cabbage family, after it has been touched by the frost.

Manures and Quantities.—The whole family of cabbage are voracious eaters—gross feeders—hence they require that the ground allotted to them should be manured with a liberal hand, for of a verity, it is difficult to feed to a surfeit. If the manure used is from the stable and barn-yard, you should spread it on the bed from 3 to 4 inches in depth; if it be *guano*, then apply it at the rate of 400 lbs. per acre. The stable and barn-yard manure, or guano, whichever kind may be used, to be spaded in. But as the cabbage is what may be termed a *potash-plant*, no matter what kind of manure may have been used, a top-dressing of leached ashes should be given to the plot, as also plaster. A mixture comprised of at the rate of 20 bushels of slaked ashes, and 1 bushel of plaster per acre, will be found to be an excellent application. This mixture may be applied at the time of preparing the bed, at the time of setting out the plants, or at the first working of them, and should be repeated at every subsequent working.

If you have no ashes, you will find a very excellent substitute, in the soapsuds made in your laundry, which should be applied once a week, three or four times.

Drawing and management of the plants.—We will here give our own management when drawing the plants from the plant-bed to set them out.

In the first place, we prepared in a tight vessel, a mixture comprised in the proportion of 1 *gallon of fine mould*, 2 *oz. of flour of sulphur*, 1 *pint of soot*, *and* 2 *oz. of Scotch snuff*. We reduced these to the consistence of cream with water, stirring and mixing the whole thoroughly together as we poured the water slowly in to the vessel containing the mixture. As we withdrew the plants from the seed-bed—and we did it with care—we placed the roots and stems, as far up as the first leaves, in the mixture, and there kept them till we planted them out.

This mixture acts in a three-fold way:—1. It acts as a manure to the plant in the incipient stage of its growth, giving it an early and vigorous start—an important point gained,—2. It prevents the plant from withering,—and 3. The sulphur, soot and snuff act as repellants to the worms, and prevent the plants from being cut off when first set out.

Distance of the plants apart.—The rows of cabbages should be 3 feet apart, the plants 30 inches asunder in the rows.

Culture.—Hoe them a sufficient number of times to keep them clean of weeds and grass, until you lay them by.

Watering.—In all seasons of drought, water them freely every second day about sundown. And do not forget that the cabbage delights in soapsuds as a beverage.

EARLY TURNIPS.

If it be your ambition to have turnips on your table, or for sale, before the farm-crop is fit for use, form a compost comprised of 2 parts woods-mould, and 1 part barn-yard, or stable manure. Add to these materials as you form them into compost, as much ashes as would give 20 or 30 bushels to the acre; throw the whole into bulk, and let it remain in bulk for two weeks, then shovel it over so as to mix the whole thoroughly together; then select a deep, light loamy bed, or one of rich deep sand; apply the manure to the depth of 3 or 4 inches over the surface of the bed, reserving about one-half of the manure to be applied as a top-dressing, and raked in. In spreading up the ground, let the spadesman take narrow slices; and spade to the full depth of the spade; as he turns over each spadeful, let him give it a stroke with the back of the shovel to break the lumps. Whenever there are 3 feet of ground before the spadesman, he must rake it thoroughly and well, so as to reduce

the soil to the very finest state of subdivision. If one raking does not do, he must continue until he effectuates his object. The bed being prepared, sow your turnip seed thinly—the *Flat Dutch* is the best for early turnips, rake the seed lightly in, and pat the bed down with the back of the shovel. Then top-dress your bed with a mixture of 2 parts ashes, 1 part salt and 1 part plaster.

Preparation of the Seed.—Soak them from 12 to 24 hours in fish oil; at the end of which time drain off the oil, and mix thrice or four times the quantity of ashes, or ashes and plaster, with the seed, so as to separate the seed and render them easy of being sown. If you have no plaster, soot may be used in its stead.

Culture.—When the *turnips first come up*, dust them in the morning, early, while the dew is on the leaves, with a mixture composed of equal parts of ashes, plaster, and soot. Continue this dusting each morning until the plants get into the rough leaf. When the plants have formed a bulb or bottle, as it is called, of the size of a bantam's egg, thin them out so as to stand 8 or 10 inches asunder each way, dress the ground with the hoe, so as to effectually destroy all weeds and grass. Repeat this dressing twice at intervals of a week apart, and you may be sure of a good crop of sweet turnips.

If you have not time to prepare the compost we have spoken of, you may substitute guano for it. The guano to be spaded in, and the ground given a top-dressing of a mixture comprised of 4 parts guano, 2 parts slaked ashes, 1 part salt, and 1 part plaster, to be raked in.

RUTA-BAGA TURNIPS.

This variety of the turnip is hardy, keeps well through the winter in any dry place with a covering of straw, and is a most excellent vegetable for table use in spring; therefore select a bed similar to the one just described for early turnips; manure it in the same way, and then form drills by your garden line 12 inches asunder, 1 inch deep; then drill in your seed prepared as advised for the other turnips, cover with the rake, and compress the soil on them with the back of the rake, or shovel.

Culture.—The same as directed for early turnips, except that the plants should stand 8 inches apart in the rows.

Time of Sowing.—Drill in your seed between the 1st and 15th of the month, as they require longer time to grow than other turnips.

If the weather should be dry after drilling in your seed, give them a watering comprised of 3 lbs. of guano, dissolved in a hogshead of water—after this, should the seed not come up and the weather remain dry, water them every second afternoon late, with run, rain, or spring water.

If you have noguano, 6 quarts of soot will answer in the place of the guano.

LETTUCE.

Set out your plants to head, and sow seed for later crops.

MELONS, CANTALEUPES, CYMBLINS.

All vegetables of this kind should be kept clean of weeds and grass, and in times of drought should be freely watered.

MANGOES.

Between the 1st and 10th of the month plant a bed of melons for mangoes. In dry weather water them freely.

CUCUMBERS.

Prepare a bed and plant a patch of cucumbers for pickles.

BUNCH BEANS.

Every 10 days during the month, put in a few rows of bunch beans. Manure with decomposed stable and barn-yard manure, or guano, and top-dress with a mixture of 4 parts ashes, 2 parts salt and 1 part plaster.

ENDIVES.

If you have endive plants, set them out—if not sow seed for a late crop.

CAULIFLOWERS—BROCCOLI.

Set out your Cauliflowers and Broccoli plants for fall and winter use. Choose a showery time to do so; form a basin around them to catch the water. Should the weather be dry after being planted, water them every evening just about sun-down till rain occurs.

CELERY.

The first rain that occurs, plant out your celery plants for fall and winter crops. Keep the plants shaded, and well watered until they take root and grow.

RADISHES.

Sow seed every week during the month.

GATHERING HERBS.

Cut your pot and medicinal herbs—dry them in the shade—when dry, tie them up separately into suitable sized bundles, carefully marking each one; then put them away in a dry, airy room.

GARDEN PEAS.

Within the first week of this month plant a few rows of garden peas for late use.

BUDDING.

Plums and *Cherries* may be budded any time during this month, after the 15th.

INOCULATING.

Towards the latter part of this month inoculate pear trees.

WATERING THE GARDEN.

In dry weather, make it your duty to see that your gardener keeps every bed in your garden watered at least every second day. Recollect that no plant can drink in its food from the earth, unless it be first dissolved by water—that neither flowers nor vegetables will grow vigorously, flourish and prosper, unless there be moisture in the earth to prepare their food.

AGICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT IN NORTH CAROLINA.

TARBORO,' N. C., June 15th, A. D. 1855.

To the Editors of the American Farmer:

Gentlemen:—The past decade has witnessed a wonderful revolution in the agriculture of our State. To this county (Edgecombe) is, by general consent, conceded the compliment of having set the ball in motion, and the spirit of improvement continues its progress slowly but surely. Another decade, and I trust it will have reached every county in the State.

The origin of this movement has been ascribed to various causes, to the reading of agricultural papers, to the worn and exhausted condition of the soil, forcing the necessity of a change or general bankruptcy of proprietors, and divers and sundry individuals claim the credit as peculiarly their own. This last cause, be it known, however, excites a sneer at the expense of the claimants.

I have an opinion about this matter, which is but the opinion of a co-laborer in this greatest of re-

forms, and can pass only for what it is worth. It is sufficient to say, that I believe it is true, and can give fair reason for my belief. Mr. Ruffin's Essay on Calcareous Manures made its appearance in '34, and what was then stated about Eastern Virginia, was alike applicable to Eastern North Carolina. Some few (not more than half a doz.) gentlemen of the old school were subscribers to the Farmers' Register, and the appearance of the essay caused them to try marl, which abounds in nearly every section of our county. This occurred while I was yet a school boy, but I well recollect the talk it excited, and the effects produced. There was as many, if not more failures than successes consequent upon its use from inexperience, and the excitement died away. Some however, persevered, and the observation of a few years satisfied them that Mr. Ruffin's theory was, in the main, correct. This then, in my humble opinion, is the orgin of the great change, which has taken place in our agriculture, and to Mr. Ruffin is due the compliment of having brought it about. The use of marl is the base upon which the subsequent superstructure has been raised. The use of cotton seed, ashes, ditch bank, low ground deposit, and the composting system generally are the offspring of the use of marl. The hauling of marl induced the hauling of other materials. The cultivation of cotton has increased the resources (and a most valuable one it is,) each hundred pounds yielding 2½ bushels seed for the compost heap.

The system of compost manuring, which is so common in this county and adjoining counties, which I am persuaded had its beginning in the use of marl, did not become general till within the past ten years. Now compost heaps in the spring of the year are the very best evidence of the improving man, and on forty or fifty plantations in this county, the amount annually applied is enormous. Several that I know of, have this spring applied over 50,000 loads of 5 bushels to the load. The improvement in the appearance of the soil, the increased product, and the high price of land in Edgecomb tell their own tale.

Very respectfully, your ob't serv't,

JOHN S. DANCY.

THE CROPS.

As usual, at this season of the year, there are many and conflicting accounts of the prospects of the crops; and as there are *bulls* and *bears* on the Flour and Corn Exchange as well as at the Stock Board, the same kind of efforts are made in the former, as is common with the latter, to raise or depreciate the price of grain—the farmer must therefore make due allowance for the reports of the public papers, remembering that the reporters for the city press are daily brought into association with the class of purchasers, whose judgment is very apt to be guided by their interest, and who can give a bias to the reports of the commercial press—and that their intercourse with the producing class is less frequent, from the nature of their business.

It will be found, we think, by an examination of the prices current, that during the months of July and August, it is invariably the case that a decline in breadstuffs takes place—this is mainly caused by the new crop being forced into market as fast as it can be gotten out, by farmers whose limited resources require them to have their grain in market as early as possible, to enable them to meet their engagements to their factors and others, and to procure their fall supplies, and consequently the rush upon the market is greater than the necessities of the Miller or the Merchant require—hence for the time being, there is a depreciation in price, but which is usually recovered from, at a later period of the season.

But the harvest is now upon us, and, in a very little while we hope to be able to place before the public in an authentic shape, the most reliable statement of the result, so far as our State is concerned—and we most earnestly call upon the officers of the State Agricultural Society, to respond promptly to the requirement of the resolution of the Board of Managers, adopted at the last meeting, to forward as accurate a statement as the nature of the case will admit, of the result of the wheat crop, and the prospect for the other growing crops. *It is earnestly to be hoped that this duty to their brother farmers and to the Society will not be neglected.*

We must candidly say, that our private advices do not accord with the statements daily made in the public press in regard to the wheat crop.—We feel confident that there cannot be an average crop of wheat.—'Tis true, there has been a great, a very great improvement, during the past month—but it will be remembered that up to the middle of May, there had scarcely been a shower of rain for month—that the wheat was late in being put in, and the continued drought prevented its branching out, and consequently it is not on the ground—the winter was unusually unfavorable, and much of the wheat and clover, was winter-killed.—In many places the heavy rains we have recently had, has also injured it, and the insects have been very injurious. To give some idea of the prospects in Virginia, we make the following extracts from casual business letters received within a few days, by the Editors of the American Farmer, and they are only a fair sample of many others we could present, had we the space at command, at the time of writing:

A letter from Amherst County, Virginia, says:—"I expect to see accounts that the present crop of wheat is a short one in the United States. The papers here have continued to report favorably of the crop when it was known that the prospect was never more unfavorable. The dry fall for seeding—a most unfavorable winter—and a drouth from March till lately, that looked like burning up the wheat fields entirely, are sufficient causes to lessen the crop one-half. Then the fly, chinch bug and joint worm, all materially lessen that product. This is the case here—and East, South and South-west of us. Corn never was as late, and we are expecting as soon as we reap our wheat to see the fields invaded by the army of chinch bug; if so, our situation will be bad indeed."

From Matthews County, Virginia:—"The wheat crop in Virginia must be short, if the various accounts I have received are correct. I had thought that the quality of the grain would be uncommonly good, owing to the favorable weather, but the harvest is unusually backward, and I fear from the late rainy spell that much of it will be ruined. The prospects for a corn crop up to this time is miserable in the extreme."

From Greenbriar County, Virginia:—"Not much more than a half crop of wheat in this and adjoining counties; cause—winter freezing. I believe I am the only person that *drills* in this section of the State, and my wheat is not at all frozen out, but stands thick on the ground and is entirely free from rust."

In New York, the "*Country Gentleman*" of 21st ult. published at the seat of government, says:—"We have painful reports, within the past few days, of the devastations of the Hessian fly on the wheat crop in the counties of Cayuga, Seneca and Wayne. A correspondent in Seneca county says—"I have carefully examined one 28-acre field to-day, and have no doubt but three-quarters of it is ruined by the Hessian fly alone, and if we have the midge too, the crop will be entirely ruined." A gentleman of Wayne says that the white wheat is very seriously injured in his vicinity, and that much of it will not pay for cutting."

In the West, the published accounts appear to be favorable but still the same causes generally operated there to injure the wheat, which were experienced here—and consequently we have not the same reliable means of determining the result.

From *England*, by the late arrivals, we find the following letter from Wm. Fowler, Esq. of Lincolnshire, published in the Albany Cultivator:—"I am sorry to inform you that our wheat crops are looking anything but promising. The severe winter has killed a deal of the plant; I should say some thousands of acres have been plowed up, and much that is left cannot be more than half a crop. The spring crops have come up well, and look promising.

"Our grass lands were much burnt up through the last summer, and we have had a sharp winter; consequently our stock of all descriptions, has suffered much. There has been a great loss of sheep. It is a very rare thing to see an old haystack, and the prospect for new is not good, unless we have fine warm weather and showers soon."

In France, the *Moniteur* publishes two decrees extending to the 31st of December next, the period during which vessels may enter French ports, free of navigation dues, with cargoes of corn, flour, potatoes, and other articles of food. According to preceding decrees, the period in question was to expire on the 31st of July. This is a very significant indication that the prospect is not favourable there.

Writers in the Richmond Enquirer and Richmond Whig argue that there is a systematic attempt made to misrepresent the actual condition of the crops throughout the country; that the yield will not be so great as is reported and predicted, and that, therefore, the prices of breadstuffs cannot decline as much as it is said they will.

The reader can judge from these evidences, which, as before remarked, are but a fair sample of our advices, as to the prospect of the crops. The letters received by us, but incidentally alluded to the subject, and without the least expectation of their publication, but as a matter uppermost in the mind of those most deeply interested in the subject, and upon the principle, that "out of the fullness of the heart the mouth speaketh."

The season has been very cold and backward for the tobacco, corn, and oats,—but good crops of these may be made, and a large breadth of land has been put in corn this spring—the cut and other worms, however, have never been more destructive.—The Hay crop will certainly be very much diminished—but the fruit and vegetables, as also the potato crop, are unusually promising.

The war in Europe, which is likely to be prolonged, is in the very heart of the country from which the supplies are mainly derived for other sections, and there, as well as on this side of the water, it is well known that the old stock of grain is well nigh exhausted. In the diminished receipts from freights on all our railroads, the cause is attributed to the exhaustion of the supplies of breadstuffs, which, had they been in existence, would have been poured in upon the Atlantic seaports, in order to realize the tempting prices which have ruled for months past.

BALTIMORE MARKET.—JUNE 27.

Cotton, Carolina, Georgia and Gulf 11a13¼ c. time. Provisions, Hams, bacon 11½, bulk hams 9½, bacon shoulders 9¼, sides 10¼, Mess Pork $19¼, do. hams 12c. Lard in bbls. 11c. and kegs 12a12½c. Rice, ord. to good 6¼a6½. Clover seed $7.50 per bushel, Timothy $4.50. Hay, scarce and in demand, at $28a$30 per ton for prime baled, and $26a28 from wagons, Rye Straw $13, and Wheat $10 per ton. Am. Linseed Oil 93c. Rosin, com. $1.70 per bbl. Spirits Turpentine 42a44c., Pitch $2.37, Tar $3.50. Guano, no change in the price by the Peruvian Agent up to this date—the supply is good, but as yet there is little doing. Potatoes com. white $1.25a1.30, N. S. Mercer $1.40a1.50, N. Jersey $1.64a1.75. Wool, unwashed 16a19, pulled 18a23, tub washed 25a29, fleece wool, com. to ¼ blood 25a27, ¼ to ¾ blood 28a35, full blood 35a40, and extra 40a45. In Tobacco, the demand is still equal to the receipts, and the market is consequently kept clear, tho' it is said some of the shippers have retired from the market for the present, in anticipation of a decline in price, from the prospect of the amount stated to come to market, and the hopes of a large crop for the coming year—in the meantime, however, the European demand must be supplied, and the quantity on hand the can be but limited—consequently other shippers are still anxious to buy—we quote Maryland inferior $6, sound com. $6.25a6.50, good com. to mid. $6.75a7.50, good to fine brown $7.50a9.50; lots from the upper counties begin to come in, and are in demand by the shippers; Bay Tobacco is also in active demand, tips or tails $6a6.50, for inferior, $7a7.50 for good; seconds 8a10.50; reds 12a15, spangled 13a17; Ohio, inferior to sound com. $6.50a7, good com. to mid. red $7.25a7.50; good red and yellow spangled 8a10, and good and fine yellow 11a15.

Flour, Howard street and City Mills $10, and rather dull; Rye $7.52, Corn Meal, country $4.75, city $5. Wheat is drooping, Red, ordinary $2, good to prime $2.12a2.20, White, good to prime $2.20a25—new wheat from Va. and Tenn. were offered in the market to-day, very fine and plump grain, but not sold. Corn, White $1.02a1.04c., Yellow $1.02a1.03. Oats, Md. and Va. 50a53, Pa. 55a56, and dull. Pa. Rye $1.55, Md. $1.50.

THE FLOWER GARDEN.

The following seasonable hints from the pen of Mr. E. Sanders, practical Gardener, we copy from the Country Gentleman, on the

SUMMER TREATMENT OF GREEN-HOUSE PLANTS.

It is important for the future success of most of the winter flowering green-house plants, to get them out in the open air as soon as possible, consistent with safety from all danger of cold winds and frosts. This is important from two considerations; the first of which is, that the space is wanted, or should be, under good management, for the various kinds of plants now growing, to keep it gay during the summer months. Another and very important reason is, that if kept in the house with the pots exposed to the atmosphere, it is scarcely possible to keep the plants from suffering for the want of water; besides which, the longer they are kept in the house, the more etiolated and tender the growth, and hence, when turned out, they are illy prepared to withstand the effects of the hot sun.

If due attention is paid to the plants now and during summer, a good deal may be done in forming nicely shaped plants, and preparing them for their winter's work. It is unquestionably a fact, and becoming more and more practiced upon, that all the plants usually cultivated (with but few exceptions) are quite capable, other things being attended to, of standing with impunity an American summer's sun. A little reflection would seem to point this out as self-evident. Ascertain their natural habitats, and it will be found that the sun shines there, and on the foliage too. A little examination of the structure of the plant will show it needs both sun and air. Practical experience teaches the same lesson also.

Another very prevalent evil is the huddling of them together in such close quarters. There is some tangible reason for doing so during winter, when a small space has to contain the whole collection, but none whatever in summer. They should stand far enough apart each way to afford ample room for the plant to grow, and space to get among them besides. Select a spot as open to the sun, especially the morning's sun, as possible; if sheltered from the driving winds, it will be an advantage. All the plants gone out of flower, should be cut back pretty close, and cleaned of any scale, mealy bug, or other vermin that may infest them; repot those in small pots to larger ones, and plunge the pots to the rim; place a piece of slate, tile, or some cinder ashes under the bottom of the pot, to keep the earth worms out. Those intended not to be potted should have an inch or two of the top soil taken off and a little fresh added. If it is desirable to increase in size some of the plants, as cuttings struck this spring for instance, plant them out altogether in some nicely prepared soil, say turfy loam, and peat earth, equal parts, with one-quarter of its bulk white sand. Any of the New Holland plants will increase to at least six times their present size before summer is over. All of the beautiful family of Heaths do finely this way, but require to be kept from the pelting rains, or the next day's hot sun will occasionally destroy some of them. They will need no shelter from the sun, except now and then for an hour or two when the thermometer

gets over 90°, but even this should be with caution, or they may receive more injury than benefit. Camelias and Daphnes are the only plants we shall keep from the sun, and they will be taken out of the house when the flower buds are set, and placed under the shade of trees. Azaleas are all the better kept in the house till their growth is completed; except in the case of very large plants, which may be turned out with the rest, where they will be sure to perfect their flower buds, but not add so materially to their size. Every other plant which is cultivated here of the winter-flowering greenhouse kinds, will be placed out of doors by the 15th or 20th of this month, (May,) plunged, but fully exposed to the sun.

FLORICULTURE—FOR JULY.

Prepared for the American Farmer, by John Feast, Florist.

As most greenhouse plants are now out of doors, a fine show may be made with Gloxinias, Achemenes, Fuchias, and such like plants that do well in the house, provided they have plenty of moisture, or otherwise they throw their foliage and soon look bad, which takes some time to recover. Keep the plants well watered, and syringe frequently with pure clean water; and by doing this of an evening, and closing the house, is a means to keep down the red spider, which is so injurious to most plants kept in the house through the summer season. Give plenty of air through the day, and also a partial shading; this helps the plants, and continues them in bloom much longer.

Camellias, if properly treated, will be making buds at this time; be careful that none suffer for water. Inarching may be done at this time if needed to increase the stock, but not before the young wood is thoroughly hardened, lest they should not succeed.

Roses—trim out all decayed blossoms and superfluous wood—and now is a good time for sticking cuttings in any convenient place.

Carnations and *Pinks* shade from the sun, if the weather is very hot; by so doing it keeps them much longer in bloom. Layering the plants should be done at this time, or cuttings taken off readily, strike root in a shady situation, either in pots or the open borders.

Dahlias will have grown tolerably high; have them securely tied to rods, so that they will not be broken by the winds which are so destructive at times. Plant out seedlings, and secure them as above.

Cinerarias will be out of bloom,—save the seed from good varieties, in order to get good strong plants another year—they also endure the winter better, and are earlier in flower.

Pelargoniums cut down, and put in cuttings for a young stock—also sow seed in a rich light sandy loam, in pots or boxes—be careful not to water too much after they are cut down.

Mixed greenhouse plants will need due attention in keeping clean; and any that will flower in the borders plant out; either turn them out of the pots, or sink the pots; they take less water than when fully exposed above ground—this mode is good for most plants during the summer season.

Hyacinths and *Tulips* being taken up, the ground can be filled up with annuals, as they require to be thinned out; they flower much better when not crowded together, as generally seed is sown entirely too thick; and many plants can be transplanted to fill up other places in the borders, and by careful watering at the time of planting often ensures success. All creepers require training and tieing up to stakes or trellising; they need constant attention, owing to their rapid growth, to keep in good order, as Clematises, Cobeas, Ipomea, but again are not such growers, therefore less attention is required.

Greenhouse bulbs that have done blooming, put away in a cool dry shady part of the house; let them stand in the pots dry during the summer months till the time of potting in the autumn.

The Shepherd.

WHAT FOOD WILL PRODUCE THE MOST WOOL.

From Morrell's Shepherd, the following remarks are extracted:

Peas, beans, vetches, etc., are useful for the purpose of enriching the blood, by furnishing it with large supplies of albumen, which is its principal constituent. It will be remembered that in the analysis of flesh and blood the relative proportions of their constituents are nearly identical; consequently whatever food contains nitrogen, and the greatest amount of albumen, is best adapted to the development of flesh or muscle, and is therefore the most nutritious. Wheat, rye, barley, and buckwheat, contain large quanties of albumen, especially the first two; while oats, it will have been seen, contains ten and a half per cent. of its organic elements of albumen, and *peas and beans no less than twenty-nine per cent.* What conclusion, then, is to be drawn from this? The chemical composition of horns, hoofs, hair, *wool*, even feathers, is substantially the same; their organic elements are coagulated albumen and gelatin, and their inorganic, silica, carbonate, and phosphate of lime, and the oxides of iron and maganese. Hence it will readily appear that food given to the sheep which will supply the greatest proportion of albumen, in the same ratio will increase the wool secretions, and, consequently, be productive of the most wool, *provided, however, they also hold in suitable combination the inorganic substances of wool*, without which they assimilate mostly for the formation of flesh or fat. This may be exemplified thus: a soil may be highly productive of corn, as well as a few of the cereal grains, yet for the production of wheat it may lack the proper proportion of the phosphate and carbonate of lime, and, consequently, the berry will not only be deficient in quantity but quality.

The following table exhibits the results of the experiments of the distinguished agriculturist, De Raumer, on the effects produced by an equal quantity of several substances in increasing the flesh, tallow, and wool of sheep:

	Increase weight of living animal.	Produced wool.	Produced tallow.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
1,000 lbs. potatoes, raw, with salt,	46½	6½	12⅝
do. " do. without salt,	44	6⅝	11½
do. " mangel wurtzel, raw,	38⅝	5¼	6⅝
do. " wheat,	155	14	58⅝
do. " oats,	146	10	43⅝
do. " barley,	136	11½	60
do. " peas,	134	14⅝	41
do. " rye, with salt,	133	14	35
do. " rye, without salt,	90	12½	42
do. " meal wet,	129	13⅝	17⅛
do. " buckwheat,	120	10	33

These results are said to agree with those of De Dombasle, and with those of a number of other agriculturists.

It will be perceived by the above table that *wheat* produces the greatest increase in the flesh of the sheep, though but little greater than *oats*; that *peas*, *wheat*, and *rye*, produce the greatest increase of wool; that barley and *wheat* cause the greatest increase of tallow. That, as an average, grain generally gives about three times the increase in the flesh, that roots do when in equal weight; that grain produces about twice as much wool as is caused by an equal weight of roots, and several times the amount of tallow.

The legitimate conclusion from the foregoing is, that the flock-master, whose object is wool only, must rely on good hay and some straw, whose constituents are admirably adapted for the growth and perfection of wool, with a moderate allowance, daily, of ground peas and oats, and some potatoes as green food, for the greatest amount of wool; and those gross substances, oil-cake, corn-meal, ruta bagas, may be turned over to the producers of fat mutton.

McLANE'S VERMIFUGE.

From the Pittsburg Journal, May 5th, 1854.

It is a departure from our habit to pronounce upon the merits of a patent medicine, or give endorsement to any nostrum, but inasmuch as Mr. Cullinan, referred to below came to us in person to make this statement which we were prevented taking from his own lips by a pressure of engagements, we cheerfully forego our rule now, to let him tell his own story in favor of McLane's Vermifuge of which Messrs. Fleming Brothers of this city are the proprietors. Our extract is from the Daily Union, where it appeared editorially on Friday, the 21st ult.

As a general rule, we are not disposed to place much confidence in statements and certificates respecting the efficacy of patent medicines. Such testimonials are often made to order, by parties who pride in the ability of manufacturing any required amount of plausible testimony for the newspapers. The plain statement of a respectable living witness in favor of any remedy for disease, is vastly more to be relied upon than columns of exaggerated puffs over fictitious signatures.

We have been called upon by such a trusty witness, Mr. Henry Cullinan, of the Sixth Ward, whom we know, who tells a simple, unpretending story in behalf of a common medicine, McLane's Vermifuge, and desires us to give the public the benefit of his experience. We have full confidence in what he says, knowing that he would not falsify or designedly mislead. He tells the following: His child, a boy of eighteen months, was severely attacked by the whooping cough, which continued some four weeks, when the sufferer fell into a high fever, which was followed by great stupor. He continued to grow worse under the treatment of physicians and in ten days' time had wasted away to a mere skeleton.

His death was expected hourly. Hearing of the cures performed upon children by McLane's Vermifuge, Mr. C. procured a bottle though the attending physician laughed at the idea of the patient having worms. A dose was administered on Saturday morning last, and the next day the child passed fifty-seven, varying in length from seven to fourteen inches. From that hour he commenced improving, and is now apparently as hearty as any child in the city—being altogether relieved also from the whooping cough, the Vermifuge having, it seems, cured both diseases. Mr. C. had also a little daughter, suffering at the same time from whooping cough, showing the same symptoms, but in lighter form. The Vermifuge was administered to her, also, and with like results immediately.—Mr. C. himself is anxious that these facts be made known. jy1-1t

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WARRANTED of superior quality and workmanship, constantly on hand or made to order from Burr Blocks of our own importation. We also keep for sale a superior assortment of Cologne, Cocalico and Esopus MILLSTONES; BURR BLOCKS; BOLTING CLOTH; CALCINED PLASTER, &c. Orders promptly executed.

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Successors to Egenton, Morris & Co.,
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jy1-3t. R. H. ARMISTEAD.

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WE have received our usual supply of Skirving's improved Swede or Ruta-Baga TURNIP SEED; Dale's Yellow Hybrid, White Globe, Red and White-Top Flat Norfolk TURNIP SEED; Early, Long and Half Long GREEN CUCUMBER SEED; all of which are of the same superior quality as those heretofore sold by us, which have given so much satisfaction, together with all other GARDEN SEEDS in our line, for sale, wholesale and retail, by SAMUEL AULT & SON,

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FOR AGRICULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES, MILITARY COMPANIES, EXHIBITIONS, &c. The Subscriber keeps constantly on hand a large assortment of TENTS of every description, suitable for AGRICULTURAL FAIRS, MILITARY ENCAMPMENTS, CAMP MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, *Political Gatherings, Exhibitions, &c. &c.*, which he will rent on liberal terms. He has a large number of Camp Meeting and Military Tents of each of the following sizes:—24 feet by 30; 16 by 24; 12 by 17; 9 by 12.

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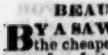
BY A SAWED PALING OR PICKET FENCE; the cheapest fence that can be made. A board at bottom of a foot width or so, and 2 string pieces of 2 by 4 inches wide, all of Hemlock; and Palings 3 in. wide by 4 or 4½ or 5 feet long, and ¾ inch thick, of Spruce or Pine. Orders sent to the Proprietors of the American Farmer, Baltimore, will be filled from the yard at *the lowest prices*, but a very considerable discount from those prices, will be made upon orders left ahead, enabling the seller to contract early with the agents here of the Eastern Saw Mills, and to deliver from vessel, saving all expense of handling, hauling, storing, &c. and thus to afford them to the Farmers at much lower prices than they have ever before purchased at. Several farmers uniting to increase their order would secure an advantage in price, and also probably in the freight from Baltimore, to the consumer. jy1

THOROUGH BRED STOCK.



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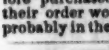

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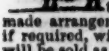

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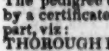
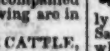
PIGS AND FOWLS.—Nine Pigs of the full bred CHINA PIGS, about 2 months old, for sale—Also, two



CHESTER SOWS, one 2 years, and the other 1 year old, both will have litters in July—and 2 BOARS, one 3 years and the other 10 months old—



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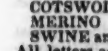

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